

Atharva V. Patil

Terrum

Part One :

James Taylor

The Order of Magic

'Silas Barlowe, a wizard on thirty first November of last year used *Trepentius*, a spell from Hell to kill seven humans and twenty three Sorcerers while trying to kill Aiden Warlock, a teacher of Starward school and a spell maker over a small dispute regarding dark magic in an open Mid Guard market' lawyer said.

'Any proof?' the Judge asked. A man dressed in orange robes hands the file of evidence to the judge. 'The evidence is all in place, Wizards. Any objections?'

After a second of silence 'The Order of Magic declares Silas Barlowe guilty of murdering seven humans and twenty three Sorcerers in an open Mid Guard Market and using the banned spell *Tripentius*. He is sentenced to Ziporian Jail for nine years under the act of using magic in Mid Guard and murdering humans and also some Mages along with use of dark magic'

Two officials in the same dress brought Barlowe within magic free shackles but suddenly he runs hard and fast towards Aiden 'I'm just telling' Barlow excused. 'I would've killed you if you weren't his freind, Warlock' he whispers in Aiden's ears. Stunned Aiden just looks towards him angrily while the guards forcefully took him out of the hall and onto the Unicorn Cart which flew into the air to North.

The case had ended but the War had just begun...

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Chapter 1

Mage Realm

It was a pitch black night with roaring and thundering clouds but the mysterious of all, scarlet moon covering the sight. 'Mama' said young James Taylor 'is this like what you told me?'

'Yeah, the red moon was just the same on your birthday, the very 1st one' Lily said, almost as if she were to cry. They were looking out from the window but then suddenly 'Lily' someone shouted 'Coming, Ryan' replied to him in the same voice. She gets up, kisses James and gets to the next room commanding James to stay there and watch the moon.

'Already?' she said, 'Yes, 15 minutes remaining'. Both of them held hands tight and walked towards the Christmas tree where James was sitting, walking intentionally slowly. 'James, my son. You were a great child to us'

'Thank you, mama,' James said. 'Hey remember, it's your 7th birthday' Lily said, 'I have got something for you' Ryan whispered 'one you've always wanted'

He pulls out a yellow cat, around one with dark yellow eyes matching to James's 'I always wanted, thank you Dada and Mama'. He hugs them for the very last time and then starts to play with the cat, everyone giggling and laughing for minutes.

'James you'll be our greatest creation for ever- good night dear' Ryan said gently 'We'll miss you'. Both of them again kissed James and made him sleep 'I don't know what I did was right but about you we were always right, good bye' Lily and Ryan whispered into his ears while he was asleep 'I think it's almost the time'

'Yes darling'

Both of them held hands and then glanced at the clock, it was 10 seconds before midnight. Both closed their eyes and said 'I love you'. A tear left Lily's eye as she said those three magical words.

'Cuckoo cuckoo!' chirped the clock and both of them turned into white light which flew out of the window towards the south. They had died. The night goes silent.

It was bright again and James had woke up but acting as if asleep to let

his mother woke him up like everyday but time passed and no one came. James got up and searched everywhere 'Good morning Oscar, have ya seen mama, Dada?'

'Meow'

He looks everywhere but no one, the house was desolate and young James worried with his little hand reaching the doors for the outside world. He searches everywhere asking anyone he sees, about them but no result. He came home and somewhat understanding what happened cried over it the whole night. Long cries and sobbs were heard all along and he barely slept, immediately woke up and did the same thing again and again for each passing year but as he grew older the hope was getting slimmer and slimmer of getting them back.

The day wasn't far when he completely stopped looking for them and accepted the fact that they were dead 'one thousand two hundred and seventy fourth days (Three years and 5 months) but not them. I guess they died, Oscar'.

He had completely stopped his education and had thoughts of rejoining it again. These three years have taught him much more about life than a 11 year old boy could.

He had the money to last him well of his whole life but he wished to study and started learning, reading on the new technology of this time, the internet.

He continues learning and slowly catches up his remaining syllabus. He had grown shy and quiet over the years and didn't have any friends, he didn't talk much in classes, attended them and stayed home all day but this too wasn't enough. He scored bad marks which made him barely pass the 7th grade.

One day he was sitting near the Christmas tree studying, and a flying piece of paper hit him on his eyes from outside. It was a crumpled up paper with old yellowing all over it. He smoothened it and it read :

James Taylor,

Your parents are alive.

Meet me at the Muning Burrow bus station tomorrow. Happy Christmas and happy birthday.

James felt his heart fill with the memories of his parents from the past and was very excited to see his parents ready but he wasn't sure if it was real or if it was just some joke being played on him. He had to go, if there was any chance of it being true. He still had hopes.

His 13th birthday too went alone like last year, he had himself a small cake which he cuts with Oscar and curdled him to make himself feel his parents were with him enjoying his birthday, Oscar was the last thing his parent left for him.

The next morning he gets up early and grabs Oscar who was still asleep with him and leaves for Muning Burrow. It was nearly an hour away, the whole way he went thinking about meeting his parents and his reaction on seeing him again but a small part of him knew that it was not possible and they were dead. Those happy memories who barely passed the test of time were in running up in his mind.

It was Muning Burrow where he used to spend most of his time when waiting for his parents to come and take him from school.

He was there. By now Oscar was already awake and they both sat on the empty bus station, waiting for whoever to come. Time passed by and the areas nearby started crowding again and Oscar's meowing started 'Quite Oscar. I will give you your food once mom and dad come, OK, ok?'. They waited and waited but no one except for the small orphan kids to whom James always gave some money or something of his clothing came along as he once was to suffer the same fate. Suddenly an orange bus arrives at the station and a man steps out asking others about someone 'James Taylor?'

'Here' James shouted 'I, I am James, James Taylor'

James suddenly notices that the bus's tyres were not touching the ground but levitating. Before he could ask the man who he was and why the bus was in mid air, the man commands him to follow him into the same bus. If anyone was the sender of that page it must be him, the same person who travels in floating buses might have thrown the paper out from the window of a 3rd floor house.

The bus had a classic interior, there was a staircase running upwards but from outside it was only a single decker bus 'Wait, who are you and why th-' James started but was immediately interrupted by the same man 'I know you have questions, sit down'.

James sits on the 2nd couch from the stairs, keeps Oscar on the left and the man sits on the front one looking opposite to James and waves his right hand and says '*Ayumpuss*' which suddenly makes the couch rotate clockwise and the man faces James 'How'd you do that?'

'It's magic, James- magic'

The engine starts and a warning sounds 'Tighten your grip' and as soon as the announcement is made the bus takes a slight backward movement and faster moves forward in a high speed slowly lifting from the ground, higher and

higher. 'Meooww' James tightens and feels the pressure of air tightening his grip against the window rods much more and suddenly a car appears to be in the way 'aaaa' James screamed but instead of taking a turn the bus 'Meow' just passes through it like there was nothing.

The bus slows down after taking a great height. 'Myself Jason Martin, I'm the one who called you here'

'Where are my parent'

'Be patient' Jason said '*Exotioss*' a plate appears out of thin air with some Italian servings kept on it 'Have it'.

'Mowww'

James munches fast on the pizza as he has not eaten anything from morning 'How... how do you know them and where are they?'

'I was your father's best man and best friend'

'What? You must be close to him. You might know where he is? But how'd you do this?'

'This? Magic. It's in my blood was in your Father's and now in you'

James stops eating and cleans his mouth for a clearer word 'how can it be? You're lying'

'Can't you look? The food, the illusion of the bus, we are flying and me!'

'Dad wasn't a magician. He wasn't'

'Meo'

'He was but he left it behind and joined the humans away from our world, he was a Mage, a magician. He sacr-'

'Warning. We're reaching the warp zone in a minute, tighten your grip more. To the Mage Realm' shouted the speaker again.

'Where?' James said, hurried.

'Mage Realm. The alternate verse of all Magicians, all Mages'

Jason said, much calmly. The Bus suddenly picked up speed and James had to grip hard on the seat cover to remain intact. Oscar almost tore the seat cover trying to get a grip. James and Oscar looked scared and distorted but Jason remained as calm as ever. James saw the distortion outside the window but suddenly everything went black and a loud glass breaking was heard. Everything turned the same distorted and blurred colors but slowly it started becoming more clearer.

It was as if he were back at the same place but more green, flying objects and fancy dress costumes everywhere, it felt 'Magical'. The bus slowed down, turned around and landed on the same bus station there. 'Thank you for choosing the Ilontra Bus'. Everyone there started getting off and there were near a thousand people who got out leaving James and Jason alone.

'Let's get out' Jason said.

Jason leads James out of the bus which later zaps through. It was crowded and people were seen using magic to lift objects and do multiple tasks. Jason again commands James to follow him. They leave the Mulling Burrow station (which Harry read in the floating piece of parchment near the bus station) through the crowded streets, Oscar walking just beside James.

James sees many magical things including some small monkey looking animals to whom Jason called Chipmunks who were trying to steal a Lady's golden purse but were later caught by a man who said 'Syrrentiuss' which hit the creatures hard and then they ran away leaving the purse. He took the purse and returned, James was amused by that man and went on thinking about the incident.

'Come James I'll leave you to your room for the month' Jason said.

'I can't stay here! I want to get back'

'No you need to go to Starword School of Sorcery to study and then I will be able to tell you... about your parents'

'Why not now' James says and stops 'why can't you tell me right now!'

'You're not old enough. Come to Stricken Valley after a year, today'

'Why'

'James, please.'

James accepts and all of them continue again. They walk for a while, Each now and then James asks Jason about the magic he just saw on the street 'you'll be able to do some too'.

They arrive at a old looking Café with multiple stories reading 'Jerkin Jeans' on the rusted metal name plate at the entrance. Jason commands James to stay here 'the next year will start on January 19th. Stay here and know about the magic more, wander around'

'Are you staying here? With me?'

'No I have work with the Order but I'll come to visit you sometime during schools times at Starward'

'And buy the things listed in here'. Jason hands Harry another scrambled up paper.

'I don't have money'

'Here take this' Jason hands James a Card of Order 'You can get anything with this but only if you need. Only-if-you-need'

Jason leaves James out at the entrance of Jerkin Jeans, commanding

him to go inside and book a room for the month. The Café was filled with Magician's of all ages doing magic, chatting and having food. James does as instructed and gets a room for thirty days.

The Café had more rooms than in London combined, over 30,000 in total. James had to walk over stairs for a while to get up for his room on the 39th floor.

The room was cleaned with a single bed at the corner beside which was a table and a carpet with an area for tea. He keeps Oscar on the carpet on which he immediately comforted and curled up.

Jason has a look around the cupboards and finds that the cloths there were exactly his size and wore them.

It was a t-shirt inside with light and dark stripes of green running vertically through it, pure black long robes with hood attached. He also finds a same shaded muffler for Oscar which he ties around his neck.

He sits onto the bed and opening the old crumpled up paper, it was a long parchment with a bunch of things listed on it which read :

1st year items at Starward :

1. *Green Grammar : English*
2. *Wizarding book for SorcererS*
3. *Animalonia : The Magical Creatures and Herbs guide*
4. *Redefinery art of Hands*
5. *Book-o-SpellS*
6. *The magnificent world of HumanS*
7. *Carmenry : Glance of Future*
8. *3 dozen Mage notebookS (21)*
9. *Multicolored and multi purpose magical pens*
10. *Palmistry Guide*
11. *World of Mages*
12. *Any Pet*

James crumpled the paper again and kept it on the desk. He saw that it had been evening on the table clock and Oscar was already sleeping in the same spot. He left his room to get a look at where he was gonna stay for the month.

It was a quiet and deserted place with the only noise which was heard from the bottom 5 floors of the Café . It was crowded with all kinds of people Old and grumpy ones or kids with some mischief up their sleeves. James sat on the corner table.

Just the table besides him sat a boy with his Mom waiting for some one and here and there talking with people around him 'Hey buddy, myself Joseph Miller and you?' The Boy said.

'I am James Taylor'

Joseph got to the same desk as James and just the chair beside his 'Hey wanna be friends?' Joseph asked. James was a bit uncomfortable because he hadn't talked to anyone within his age for years now.

'Ye- yes'

Joseph told James that he was waiting for his father to come as they all meet in the Café on every Saturday also that he just lived a few houses from the Café 'and don't call me Joseph, it's awkward. Josh is fine'

Both immediately became good friends because of Josh's friendly nature and James's loneliness hitting him. They both continue to talk and James invites Josh to his room which they get exhausted while climbing.

Josh too loved cats as he started playing with asleep Oscar as soon as he saw him. 'Hey what's your age again?'

'Thirteen'

'Amazing! We're in the same year. Have you bought you books yet?'

'No, I was planning to get them tomorrow'

'Tomorrow before lunch 3 blocks from here. We'll buy the books together and if you want, we can go to the new year fair organized the day after tomorrow'

James agrees and they both talk and play with now awakes Oscar who was too cheerful to play with Josh. This continued till night hit the clock and finally Josh felt that he was running late and had to meet his dad before he went to work again so he left James.

James who still wasn't drowsy got to reading a book he bought from the counter, it had a boy with a wand and a deer casted from it on the front cover (human book). He finally slept on the desk, reading.

The next day arrived and James woke up but still closed his eyes- He thought that when he would wake up he'd be in his room and all this was a dream. James

forcefully opened his eyes by Oscar's screeches for food- It wasn't a dream and he was there present at the Café but he remembered that he didn't have any food for Oscar; he closed the door and left the Café after finding out that they didn't serve animal food but he got directions to where he could get the food nearby, this early.

The street was empty as it wasn't even six am and James felt alone while walking. For him it was just so random about everything just happening recently and his desperation growing with passing time to meet his parents.

He suddenly heard someone's footsteps drawing near and got alert, looking in every possible direction for someone or something. He finally sees a long hat with pointed top and a stick with a long beared which were possessed by someone reassembling a fully grown man but his face was still in dark.

James hides behind a small and blue post booth to take a closer look but he had already been spotted by the man who James somewhat noticed had a long curled up beard and glasses hovering his face but before much the man waved his wand and said '*Vichesenta*' as slow and in the least possible voice and then disappeared.

James hurried to the location but wasn't able to do anything and moves on 'Why would that man run away? I think there's something going on' James thought.

He was already near the shop with largely 'Animalonia Store' written with glowing colored ink in mid air just as it had been described to him.

He got in the magically opening door past a sleeping monster with a horn who was double his size. The 1st thing he noticed was that the store had multiple entrances with writings above them. He just entered from the 'Jerkin City' door and there were more like 'Sentros City' 'Juman Jungle District' and one named 'Starword Town'

It was a very bright hall with many special animal section with the respective animals fake bodies to add to its selling point. There were sections of animals such as Eves (Small golden flying shapeshifter), Dragons, Chipmunks and more which he didn't even knew before reading about them in respective sections then there were animals like Horses, dogs, rats, snakes and cats... that's where he went and got the food and did the checkout.

He fed Oscar the fresh chicken and he himself ate some chocolate which he bought it on the way to the Café.

Later he got Oscar and locked the room to leave for getting his books. Josh's house was a normal looking house with a very odd color scheme of oJoshie and purple while other houses had oJoshie and red.

James knocked gently on the Griffin shaped rusting door knob but before he could even execute it the door opened and James walked in with Josh welcoming him.

He made James keep Oscar with toys while they were out getting books. The market was filled with people buying and arguing. The streets were filled with the same floating Names which weren't there earlier this morning. As soon as James steps out Josh welcomes 'This is the busiest street in the entire country, the Jerkin Street'

James opened the paper and both of them decide to go and get the things from 'Human World' A shop just right to Josh's house. They went in and James was very attracted to the books section with some of the old books he'd already read in the Human world while Josh got his attention to Stationary.

James bought 2 of the grammar and then 2 books of Human study while Josh was getting the parchments for both and 2 sets of ink and feather. They got it checked out, James used the Order card and then saw that Josh was using his old notes (Mage Currency) to pay but James stopped him and paid his part happily 'Why'

'You're a friend. I never had any'

They both walked silently as Josh went quite pale but James still happy to help. The next stop was 'Magical Books' where they had a lot to buy.

When they entered it, it was all filled with many shelf with Books decorated, some floating and some caged. The shop was the biggest they had visited yet as it also doubles as a Library for the people who can't afford.

Josh made James follow to show him some of the best one he read here like 'Jinga Jingis : The Art of Games' 'The Guide to Magical Toys' 'Jinx Pranks' and his personal favorite 'Bond between a Normal Human and a Magical Human' which he read at least 5 times.

After showing James the books dragging him from here to there, they stopped and started looking for the school books which weren't so bad either, James started reading one on the spot because of the beautifully drawn arts on the covers (Book-O-Spells).

They bought all the four needed books which they could find there each in a pair of 2. This time James allowed Josh to pay because he noticed that Josh's face went pale when he had helped him earlier.

They both wandered around finding and buying every book left and finally 'Its a pet- yes a pet, you already have one, Oscar'

'But you need one'

'Yes I guess I'll buy an from Animalonia' Josh said still walking. James told Josh that he had visited the place but didn't dare tell him about the man in hat and that he had a wand.

The shop wasn't the same shop but one in front which was much smaller and less fancier. The shop was much older, with less decorated and the furniture looked as if it was rotting. There were no more doors than 1. It had a centered table with walls decorated with animals like baby Dragons, Cats, small Chipmunks, baby Eagles and more.

Just above the chair was a large metal plate the size of a man which said 'Animalonia; Since 21BCE'.

The room was empty when they entered. James started looking for someone to show them trough animals but no one was there. Josh makes James quite and a hush surrounds them along with many jumbled up animal noises, a hand touches both of them from back.

Both shocking turn around in a defensive manner and find an old man with a long beard, wrinkles over his face and a fat stomach. But he wasn't like them, he wasn't a Man; they could see through him partially. James and Josh took a step backwards for defense.

'Don't worry, I won't harm you' Ghost said, coughing. 'I am the owner of this place, Harry, and have died thousands of years ago and now... live here to guide people to best of their soul matches'

Josh moves closer and talks slowly 'What's my soul match?' He said while getting back into position.

'Let me see'

Harry touches Josh's forehead and instructs him to close his eyes while do it himself.

'You have a brave soul, an interesting one. Whoever you'll meet and consider. Yes- you'll change his life'

'Whose?' James asked.

'I don't know- it's not clear. There are spectacles and a forest. You will become a hero, with a girl- a boy and you'll die- no, not die but save lives- got it'

Harry opens his eyes again while Josh had already did so 'What were you telling- a boy, a hero?'

'It's his future which I don't know but was unclear. My job has been to seek into one's future and get him a perfect companion, a match for his soul- it has been so for years but you were special, something about you and you' Harry said now pointing at James. 'Let me see yours future'

'No!' James said boldly, stopping Harry's hand touching his forehead. 'I

i don't want to let you decide my future or even let anyone including me see it- future must not be seen-I don't know how they trust anyone to see their future, it's not only one who can decide' James said angrily.

Josh calms him and makes him take a seat 'Okay! I'll not. Let me get atleast his soul match'

Harry goes through a wall and silence runs through the room, only making James's angry breaths which were trying to slow down.

Harry walks in through a different set of walls in a minute as if it is normal 'You have a Griffin as you match, Joseph'

He walks forward and plucks one of Josh's hairs and then throws them into a pot then he starts to say a spell while doing motions from his hands 'Griffin- Griffin- Griffin-OF-Griffin let you choose thou Master and dive deep into his glory, let him allow to love and care you...'

He puts some more liquids into the pot after saying and then pour the liquid into a cage and as soon as the liquid touches the floor of the cage it starts to form some or other part of a small puppy looking animal with wings until the liquid was over and it was completely made.

'Take the Griffin- take care of him and he'll be loyal to you until you're loyal to him'

Josh takes the Griffin with care and then opens the closed cage in which the Griffin was sitting scared in a corner but as soon as she sees Josh, she opens her wings to fly and jumps out but falls on the ground, not hurt. Josh picks her up with his other hand.

'Why would you let him free?'

'Animals don't deserve to be caged, they need to be free just like us and do whatever their heart says'

'James- got it' Josh continues. 'You do know what to do now... don't you?'

Josh makes Harry turn the other way by asking him something about cats while James got outside, got a big stone and threw hard in an empty ally. This withdraws almost everyone's attention including Harry's who passes through the wall to get and gets a look there.

While Josh busied Harry, James opened all the visible cages, freeing all the animals out.

James sneakily runs before Harry noticed that the animal noises grew and that animals were running out through his shop into the street.

Josh too runs out as fast as possible holding the Griffin tight after freeing everyone and before Harry passed through the wall again and caught them.

Harry covers the sight and starts following both who were already way

ahead in the chase. He ran as fast as possible to catch them but wasn't even close to their speed and started lagging behind.

James and Josh had lost Harry, had passed Josh's house and the Café but still didn't stop. They finally stopped when they were no longer able to run and sat just in front of the door steps of a random house.

Both of them caught their breath and looked at each other 'That was so much fun'

'And did you see his face?'

Hearing this James starts to laugh followed by Josh who wasn't yet fully restored.

'That was an awesome first day here'

Later the day they backed home again and did nothing much exciting except for watching some shows on a Dentox.

Chapter 2

Sorcerers and Wizards

The next day James slept long till evening because he hasn't had a good sleep for days now. He continued to sleep along with Oscar who was not so tired but lazy, lying besides James.

The door smashes open and produces a large thud noise almost knocking Oscar off bed and waking James. He saw a blurred figure just at door yelling 'Wake up, we'll miss the fair'

James puts on his glasses to find Josh standing there yelling the same words with a slight variation everytime.

'It's 1pm and the fair ends at 3pm. Why haven't you woken up till now? We've missed most of it. Get up or we'll miss the rest too!'

Josh told James all about the fair as they were getting down from the stairs. The fair is to celebrate the New Year and it is the biggest festival of the year, here. Listening, James got more and more intrigued to see the fair.

By the time they finished the stairs James was extremely tired and exhausted to think about anything as such like Josh. They took a small break in the Café before they continued.

After a very quick evening tea both set off again and Josh just told them that they'd have to take the Civil Train to reach the next town where the fair this year was being held.

The train station was near but it wasn't anything like the ones in Human world which shocked James. The station was an old building in a desolate plain where they had arrived by taking a lift. Inside was an old man selling tickets.

Josh bought 2 tickets and the tickets said that the train would be here in no time.

'What does no time mean?' James asked in curiosity.

'There is no specific time for trains to arrive. They are all time everytime'

James didn't exactly got what Josh told him but still followed him to the 3rd floor, time chamber which he read on the lift button. James was pleased to see an Elevator instead of stairs.

The elevator opened and they entered an black room with no other ends. As the doors of the Elevator closed there was no light coming into that room, making it completely dark, completely black.

James hears the same glass breaking sound that he heard when traveling through the bus and suddenly an engine starts heating and a door opens through the blackness revealing a train interior.

Both walked in and found themselves between people who looked from different times into a single train.

'Look we booked a time station train, meaning everyone from any time period except from future will travel in a single train making a need of no more trains than one' Josh explained.

'Don't they get full?'

'No. You know this is a flaw we found in time travel : we can't see or feel our future or say anyone's future and the people you see around don't know you're here, you are physically not here, for them... Making technical infinite space with a single train'

'Ohh, you do know a lot about trains'

'Yeah, my favorite topic'

Slowly the darkness covering the windows dissolves revealing the the building they were in and the train walked through the walls as if nothing was there and flew high into the sky which revealed the plains and the building which were getting smaller and smaller each second until they disappeared into clouds, covering the windows with blue sky.

'How long would it take to reach?'

'Not more than fifteen minutes'

James comforted himself near the window seat just beside Josh. James was looking at the ancient, modern and sometimes medieval people lurking around and remembering from which Era they were from with the help of what he learned in History (Human School Subject).

Josh started peeking here and there and whenever he talked to anyone he had no answer back. There was an old man who looked as if from 16th BCE from whom Josh called by tapping on his shoulder to get his attention but his hand passed right through him.

'I hate it here- No one to talk to- Except you!'

James and Josh spent most of their time talking to each other. The train slowly decreases its speed and gets lower and lower through the clouds revealing an Magnificent Fair with shops of all sizes and thousands of people wandering around.

The train finally came to a stop when it landed just in front of the door of the Fair. Josh hurried to get out, reaching even before the gates of the train were open and James had to follow as he didn't know much about the place.

They walked out and saw a large round gate, double the size of an

average one was covered with brick walls where they were standing. They both walked in with an expression of excitement through the rusting gate. It was crowded with many people that one couldn't even get past from one shop to other without tackling the other person.

'Stay close' Josh said. 'If you get lost here- you may never return until your death!'

'This is the Fair when it's almost to an end?' James said, sarcastically.

Josh cuts James off and runs towards a shop which went underground, James had to follow for not getting lost. It was an horror underground adventure train.

'Yes! My favorite place' Josh said. 'Let's get in'

Inside was a normal small house covered with ghost stickers, cutouts and even the real ghosts! On of them was introducing himself to a hord of people 'Myself Oliver Kindle. I'm thou guide from this ride'

He then walked to a set of doors 'Select the ride- Pay- and enjoy the mystery and HORROR!'

Josh walked up to the cheapest door which was very old and rotten out and payed for himself. James followed and did the same.

'The ride BEGINS' Another ghost said. It was a big hall with no one except them and many very realistic feeling props scattered around here and there. The duo walked through the hall looking for stuff to do and 'Here' James shouted to call Josh there and showed him that he had spotted a lever.

'Pull it' Josh said.

James pulled the lever and a donkey carriage appears before them with a ghost driving it. Both of them got on the carriage and it started to move and soon it took the way down- but it was all floor there but it passed through it revealing the open sky.

It was nothing scary- Josh and James started to look for something spooky in the empty void but nothing.

'We've been ripped off' Josh said rather angrily.

Suddenly a slow growl was heard- it was getting more and more loud by each second and the carriage man spoke for the very first time 'Ge' ya backs ready'

Suddenly a dragon leapt out with some fire on his head and tail which followed the carriage. The carriage took a very hard turn almost knocking James's glasses off.

The dragon was following them with more speed but their safari didn't

slow either- the dragon chasing the cart- the dragon was now toe to toe with the carriage.

Red burning flames erupted from the Dragons nose showing that he was angry. James felt as if he was standing right next to the sun. His heart was thumping hard and he could tell that Josh was feeling the same- If they don't escape successfully, they would die.

The cart moved hard up. James and Josh were almost knocked out but were just hanging by the hands to the carriage and finally the dragon following them was falling behind- no he slowed down. Suddenly the dragon was out of sight and the carriage got normal again and took a stop.

Both got to their seats again and- The carriage person wasn't there. They felt a bit safe that the dragon wasn't around but the same growls started to be heard again.

Josh panicked along with James- There was no one to save them from the dragon now- they were gonna die.

The screeches were getting louder and with no other option, James jumped to the seat of driver and got the ropes of the two donkeys.

'Do you know how to drive'

'No! I tried it once when I was a kid- with my parents- I fell of'

'You have paren...'

The dragon was behind them again- James pulled the ropes and the donkeys screeched- they were back into the chase. The dragon was now much faster- or they were slower but it didn't matter because this time in seconds he was back toe to toe with them.

James pulled the ropes again- much harder this time but it instead of increasing the speed it went on decreasing.

The dragon stopped again falling behind, slowly becoming not visible but James didn't know how to stop the carriage and still continued to fly away.

It went all silence 'I guess he's tired' Josh said.

It continued for a minute and the donkeys finally had got a stable speed- their walking speed. Suddenly a second dragon came from ahead- James somehow managed to drive the carriage backwards- Much faster this time as the donkeys were also too scared to die!

They continued for a while and turned round, much smoother. They were racing but the the same dragon was ahead of them- nearly 10 miles- he was cleaning something off his nose.

The dragon heard the carriage and started following them again. They were chased by a dragon from front and also from behind.

'Hold Tight!' James Yelled.

They took the hardest right turn yet which almost knocked both from the carriage but somehow they still managed to stay still.

Now they were chased by two Dragons at a time. They were surely gonna die this time if not now thought James. But luckily the dragons started fighting each other- For their supper.

They still continued when the Dragons fell behind again, fighting each other for them as their food.

A large growl was heard and the pink (2nd one) dragon was back on the chase.

James knew that they were going to stop soon as the donkeys were too tired- they were slowing down. Josh was again and again yelling at James to increase the speed but nothing was done.

The dragon was just beside them- no ahead of them and he opened his mouth wide before aiming a large burning red fire towards them.

Both closed their eyes in fear as the reaper was waiting for them.

After a second or two they noticed that they were falling and opened their eyes- there were no donkeys- the dragon still following them from behind and they were falling hard on the ground.

If they continued for more than a second now they would reach the ground and die. James was falling independently from the carriage just like Josh.

'JOSH! DO SOMETHING! USE MAGIC'

'SORRY! I CANT'

'WHY?'

The tension was rising and Josh had already expected death reaper to be on the ground waiting for them.

Both closed their eyes. They fell short on the ground. They weren't hurt at all.

James heard someone laughing and saw a boy at their age standing near the door and laughing. James woke Josh up with himself and walked to the boy. It was all just an illusion crafted to scare them by the shop.

'Hey! Scared cats' the boy said

'Who are you! Stop laughing!' Josh said

'Robert Ranviers my name'

'You- the son of Richard Ranvier are a thrown out wizard!' Josh said angrily. 'WHY are you here?'

'Haha... some of you don't know. I'm a wizard born Sorcerer'

'Wizards? Sorcerers?' James said, confused.

Josh was looking rather surprised to hear what Robert had said and walked backwards.

'Stay away! My parent told me all about Wizards and you! You might not be one but still have the blood, don't you?'

'Who even wants to know you, Idiot!'

Josh was looking like a time bomb that would explode on Robert at any moment.

'YOU!...' Josh was cut off by James who trying to drag him out of the room.

'Why are you so hostile?' James said, who was the only cooled person there and he somehow managed to drag Josh away from Robert in time without Josh's anger exploding on Robert.

They were out of the fair stall, Josh was still in bad mood with a pretty confused James walking besides him through the fair.

'Who was him, back there? And why were you erupting for no reason at him' James said, still walking.

'He was a Wizard! Is our territory' Josh said.

'Wizard. What is that? And that- yes Sorcerer. What is it?'

Josh suddenly stopped. 'How come you don't know?' He said. Josh dragged James to an empty ally just beside a Potions shop.

'By now... I am pretty sure you're not from here.' He said, pretty seriously. 'If you want to stay here, this city, anywhere near us, near your people, you need to know it'

'Yes but...' James was cut off by Josh 'We are Sorcerers. We don't need any item to channel our magic, it's in our vein. Those Wizards are the ones who need it, their wands, without it they are just humans.'

'So he was a wizard- son?'

'Yes. They're jealous of us as they think that they're not as powerful'

'OK- but why were you so outraged?'

'We all are. They killed many members of our our community and the Order...'

'The what?'

'The order- government here, has made two parts of this place : one for us and another for them, no one is allowed to pass through the lines. They, the Wizards practice dark magic and if they do the same here we would too be corrupted'

'What kind of Magic?'

'I don't know. It is unknown to us but the thing we know is that it is not very good for our mental health'

'Can't just the government- you know- ban it?'

'No' Josh said, looking as if he never thought about it. 'No- no, they won't listen. Since the Mid Gaurd incident...'

'Mid- Guard?'

'Earth, the place where non mages live- since that incident, they've started not to follow the Order- no one knows why'

A silence fell through as James was thinking about everything and was trying to think of something to speak and ask but he couldn't find anything.

'I guess we should toss it aside and enjoy the fair' James said feeling quite guilty of ruining such a day.

'Yes- I don't wanna think of those devils again'

Both walked quietly out from the ally and found that the crowd had just doubled through their chat.

They started walking again through the crowd looking for some fun ride to do or something good to eat through the fair when James suddenly spotted a Head, just the head as the lower body was covered through the crowd around and immediately recognized him as Aiden Warlock, the person about whom James read while reading a book at Magical Books library.

He was so intrigued because he had read that he was one of the greatest Magician of all time so he ran to see him through the dense crowd trying to get a better look.

It was actually him standing on a red stage with a green backdrop saying 'Aiden Warlock's Adventures' and he was giving a speech '... I thought I'd die that time but I don't know how I survived and then became a proof against Silas in the Order Court.'

When suddenly a lady interrupted his and asked 'Sir, what about your old friend MoodsKeeper?'

'Ahh... the good old days. He was one of my best friend, we did many missions and discoveries together. He was the best spell maker I've seen but one day he just disappeared and never returned...'

James was listening to him with such great interest but few moments later a big and loud siren rang through and Aiden announced 'Guys, I'll end it here and recommend that you too leave or you'll be trapped here until tomorrow when the fair reopens, you have 30 minutes'

Everyone started pushing each other with force trying to return to the entrance gate and Aiden started to pack the mic with some hand gestures and spells.

James now looked to his right and- there was no Josh, he hadn't noticed for that long that Josh wasn't with him because he was too invested in the adventures. James started panicking as only a very few dozen people were now at

the fair and he was- Lost with no help out- he didn't know the way to the entrance but then suddenly a voice spoke.

'He little boy!'

It was Aiden calling James 'Where are your parents? Here alone?'

'I-I am I- Lost. I was with my friend- I can't find him now'

'OK then, I'll help you find him. What's his name again?'

'Josh- Joseph'

'Don't panic. We still have 20 minute before it disappears'

James was scared to think anything so he just followed Aiden even Though his parents taught him not to trust strangers but he wasn't a stranger, James knew many of his adventures and he even worked for the Order (James heard from Aiden himself in the speech).

'Where do you live' Aiden asked while still walking and looking for Josh.

'Jerkin City' James said, nervously and finally managed to gather the courage to ask 'What is your job? I heard you go on missions, what missions?'

'I'm actually a spell maker, I make different spells for the public to use but you know this is quite a dangerous job as I sometimes find dangerous spells too and it's again my job to avoid these spells getting in the wrong hands, this made me have quite some adventures to retire them back.

'Can- Can you teach me a spell?'

'Do you have your activator?'

'Activator?'

'Yes Activators, these are items used by young Sorcerers to be able to do magic until their soul is balanced, do you have one?'

'No'

'Ohh- sorry then, I can't help it, but won't you go to Starword?'

'Y-Yes'

'OK, then I'll tech you there, I'm the physical spells teacher there. You know part time to earn some extra'

'Ohh' James sighed as he found nothing to speak of and got more on more nervous. 'Hey, What kind of items do you mean?'

'Just- Just like watches, rings, bracelets, lockets are the common ones, I personally got glasses to wear- it was weird at the start...'

'Are you new here? Like you don't know anything?' Aiden added suspiciously.

'Yes- I lived back on Earth- you know, I didn't had any idea of Magic until someone got me here...'

'So you're one of those kind' Aides said, fascinated.

'What Kind?'

'You know- people like you are rare here, most of the Mages live here, we don't have the same blood. Wizards, Sorcerers and Humans have different bloods but very rarely in a thousand years- people like you are born'

'Like me?'

'Yeah- People with different parents than what they are, they're called Trans-Mutants... The society has a weird look for them but you know I am an-Scientist, I love the kind'

Hearing this James suddenly remembered about Robert- the Wizard born Sorcerer. This had his respect much higher for Robert than it was after seeing his behavior.

Then the same bell rang but much longer this time 'we need to find him fast! Only last 10 minutes'

Aiden started hurrying and looking for Josh through the crowd and suddenly a voice, far distant was shouting 'James- James- Here!' and James saw a very small dark brown headed boy waving from a corner running up to him, it was Josh.

James told Aiden that he found him until Josh finally reached them and said hurriedly 'I thought I lost you! Where were you?' then he started getting his breath back by relying on his legs for support.

Josh looked up to see James and to start the rant of questions again but stopped as soon as he saw Aiden standing and grinning over him 'AIDEN WARLOCK!' he said, looking so surprised.

'I'm your biggest FAN!'

Aiden's smile got much wider.

'Sir- Sir please, an autograph!'

James was so shocked to see Josh so desperately wanting the autograph of someone he just walked and had been so casual with.

'Sure' Aiden said quietly as if this behavior is normal, atleast to him.

'I've read all your books!' Josh said in excitement.

'All 3?'

'Yes- all three!'

Aiden waved his hand and some small sparkles erupted from his pointing finger which later turned up to be a magazine with his face on the cover and written in bold above 'The Star Icon of this Century : Aiden Warlock' which Aiden signed with a green pen which appeared along with the magazine and gave it to Josh.

Josh jumped excitedly into air grabbing the Magazine and looking at his autograph from all possible ways.

'I can't believe it! I met Aiden Warlock! Bloody hell'

'So are you excited for your first Starword year' Aiden said to swipe the current topic.

'Yeah, but not as much to meet you!'

'Josh' James said, getting Josh's attention as he thought Josh had forgot about him. 'He's going to Startword with us' James added normally.

'Why'd he go there? It's for newcomers, not for one of the greatest Magician for all time' Josh said while looking back at Aiden for his confirmation.

'Lucky for you, I'm actually coming there as a teacher for Physical Spells'

Josh's jaw dropped as he was shaking in excitement 'YOU are coming to TEACH US!'

'Yes- yes but better talk later. Everything's gonna disappear soon, let me help you'

Aiden snapped his fingers and all three of them were now in front of the entrance gate with the speaker yelling 'LAST TRAIN TO JERKIN CITY'

'Hurry up' Aiden said hurriedly.

'Aren't you coming?'

'No I still have work here! Now go!'

The train had started moving and James barely got along with Josh who was still looking out of the window to get every last view of Aiden left and as soon as Aiden disappeared from view, Josh and James got back to their earlier seats.

'DO YOU KNOW WHO HE WAS? THE GREATEST PERSON EVER ALIVE, THE BEST ACTOR, THE BEST SPELL MAKER AND EVEN THE BEST ADVENTURER' Josh said while settling down.

'Yes I do, I met him, I know him- he helped me find you...'

'What?' Josh's jaw dropped again but he got it back up. 'Why you got lost, not me? I'm jealous'

James laughed looking at the look of disgust on Josh's face 'Why always me- wait- yes, you! You are a friend of his now, tell him to be my friend too- please- won't you do it for your friend?'

'Uhhh' James sighed awkwardly. 'Yes- if you say so'

The rest of the ride went Josh talking some or the other adventure of Aiden among which James already heard from Aiden himself but stayed quiet and just listened to his friend talking about someone else for a long and continued hour.

They got back to Josh's home and picked up Oscar from there who was again just sleeping beside the bowl of food James left for him before leaving. The got him

and all three got to James's room to chill and left Oscar sleeping again on the carpet and sat down looking down at him.

'Not more than a 15 days before I meet Aiden- sorry- The Great Aiden Warlock again at school'

'Yeah, about that- Starword- tell me more about it, like it's so different from the schools back their'

'It's the biggest Sorcery school around, the best teachers are there and especially AIDEN WARLOCK!'

'No- The system of education there, it's pretty cool of what I heard yet, isn't it'

'I also don't know much about it too but I heard that it has four- yes, four houses to be in'

'Houses?'

'Yes, the place where we stay and have classes along with'

'Which houses'

'They are four and- are like the Midnight House, my least favorite. The Amethyst house- the powerful ones. Roselia House, the smart one- not us and the best one is Verdant House- the house for the Best ones- us, James'

'Whoa...'

'Doesn't stop! They have their own mascots. Midnight has Owls- who even likes owls- non magics. Amethyst has Dragons- suits them, actually. Roselia has Unicorns- don't ask why and finally Verdant has griffins like Grubbin (Josh's Griffin)'

'Ohh, I'd rather like Dragons or Griffins, Owls are not bad either but Unicorns are the worst'

'I of course like Griffins, I've got one- back home, likes to stay home, might change when older'

'And- is there any procedure before getting in?'

'Not much- just have to send an letter for qualification as a Sorcerer'

'A letter?' James said, worried.

'Wait! You haven't sent a letter yet!' Josh said angrily. 'Today's the last day and- it's almost over!'

'No' James said, shocked.

'Now what?' James added, trembling.

'Get a parchment!'

James runs fast over to the table and gets the free parchment provided with a very old pen and hands it to Josh who starts writing something immediately.

After a while when he finished, he handed the letter to James to take a

look and correct if needed. James reads the following letter :

Respected Principal,

I, James Taylor, am here to apply for the Magical school year of Starword.

I am exactly Thirteen and I am applying for 1st year. The following details are :

Birth Date : 25th December, 1980

Current Age : 13 Years

City of Origin : Jerkin City, Jerkin Jein Café

Preferred House : Verdant (Green)

Pet : Cat (Oscar)

Thanks for accepting my request to join your school of Sorcery this year....

Loyal Student,

James Ryan Taylor

James read everything thoroughly, still shaking and finally nodded to Josh, who immediately grabbed the letter, got another piece of paper, and made an envelope out of it (which looked real and convincing enough). He inserted the folded letter into the envelope.

'We still need a seal of approval to send it...' He said while thinking and walking around, back and forth.

Josh opened the door and ran down the stairs, followed by James. They got much faster this time as they were hurrying and Josh got to the reception table first.

'Is there any chance of getting a seal of approval, I am quite in a hurry right now!'

The man didn't spoke as always and looked through his drawers under the serving table, then the register, then the cutlery and finally in his pockets where he found one and handed Josh.

It was an empty rectangular stamp with some space to write on it, where Josh wrote 'To Starword Post Office' and stuck it on the top right of the letter and again wrote the same on the envelope too.

Josh hurried through the door, outside followed by James into the

midnight Jerkin Street which was lighted beautifully with neon orange light hanging in air, giving it the moodiness feel.

Josh found an easy open spot as there were not many people wandering around.

'Go- go to the office' Josh whispered into the envelope.

Suddenly 2 wings popped out of the envelope (one from each parallel side) and Josh held his hands outstretched into the air before jumping and letting the envelope fly away.

The envelope flew higher and higher into the air and finally disappeared from sight.

'It'll reach school by tomorrow, you're safe now'

'Thanks' James said in an shameful and low voice which Josh wasn't able to hear.

'You almost missed your school year if it weren't for me'

'Thanks' James repeated in a loud but again shameful voice.

Chapter 3

Starword Castle

The next day was not so special as they just went on running and wandering aimlessly around the street trying to do something fun or just spend their remaining time away from boredom.

The fun was getting smaller and smaller by each day for both. James now almost knew about everything going on in the streets and Josh who just excited to do the same thing but with a twist (along with James) had his excitement to also die out with James' curiosity.

One day, they did try to get or steal some fishes for Oscar and some Dragon Bees for Grubbin and they of course chose to steal which was so easy that all the fun ran away. They just went in on the worst possible time, just when the shop was empty and no one was present, and got to steal it easily.

But James did leave a letter and some money for the items before leaving and didn't tell Josh.

'Aren't you just excited for Starword?' Josh spoke out suddenly.

'Yeah I am'

'Tommorrow we'll be fianaly able to use magic and SPELLS for ourselves, like the graduates'

'What do you want as your Activator' James said, in a low voice.

'It would be cool to get a bracelet or even a ring would work, what about you?'

'Not sure, but would like something easy to use' James said, rather slower. 'I haven't got a lot of experience as you've got and every other has got'

'You'll be all fine, I am there to help you'

The rest of the day went on talking and packing stuff for their Journey. James got all the things he had, which were not many and packed it in a small briefcase which he bought the other day.

James woke up early feeling the excitement that he thought to have disappeared away with his parents and finally got ready.

Josh was there, dragging his large briefcase which he was barely able to

pull with a bag hanging on his shoulder and Gribbon (Josh's Griffin) just trying to punch the bag to move it and help Josh.

'Hello' Josh said in a tired voice. 'Ready? I am'

'Yes, with everything packed, to the- the- umm- where are we supposed to get it now?'

'We are taking the Ship. There are multiple ways to reach that Island but, I don't know why it hasn't got any particular location'

'What? No particular location? Where are we supposed to go?' James asked, in a low voice.

'No- not like that. The Ship has the location and the Ship has many spells put on it so- I guess it takes us through and to the Island'

'Better hope so'

'We'll take the Ship from the Menvill Seashore resorting'

Both walked as James helped Josh carry his briefcase to the- what looked like an eternity of walking later and spotted a small castle. The castle only had a single entrance, three towers till the height of four floors (highest one) and only had very few windows sticking out.

James followed Josh through the wooden gates guarded with two sleeping creatures with big yellow eyes, no nose, long elephant-like ears, two fangs coming from mouth and had dark and dirty yellow skin to whom Josh described as 'They're Grendals, don't worry they'll not attack you until they find you guilty of anything'

Inside was nothing special with many people surrounding small tables and had some ordinary magical furniture James had already seen by now. Josh got them to one of a few empty tables which read 'Quick Transport Mode : Leafation'.

'Look' Josh said, pointing at some dry powder kept beside a bowl of leaves. 'These are Leafoats. They used to transfer themselves from here to there. Look, take the leaf there, the greener, the easier transport, then write where ever you want to go, hold it tight in hands and then just take a pinch of this powder, Leafoats- eat and swallow it'

James shook his head as if he was saying 'Then What?'

'We'll be in the place we written it to be' Josh said while writing down something on the leaves. 'But write clearly to reach where you want exactly to get, use good handwriting- not now, I'm doing it for you, but later- whenever in use'

James was about to say 'I wasn't planning to use it' but immediately stopped as it sounded somewhat rude to tell anyone.

'Meet you at Menvil Seashore'

He swallowed the powder and as soon as he did so his complete body was dissolved into just some green leaves (Just like the leaves he wrote on) and that to disappearing slowly.

James did as was instructed and held the leaf tight in his hands as he could feel it sweating and ate just a little pinch worth of powder.

He heard leaves rustle and closed his eyes to the feeling that his body was wrapping around itself, but it didn't feel as painful as he thought it would and again after a few seconds it started to unwrap.

James felt as normal as ever as he opened his eyes and found himself on a very clean and colorful beach filled with people almost just of his age wearing pure black long robes over the same black shirt and black pants underneath it which was almost covered by the length of robes.

But his eyes suddenly started looking for Josh out of the crowd just when he heard Josh's voice calling him over from right. There he was, waving and calling James under the shed of a tree.

'We'll have to wait here till the Ship arrives, which shouldn't take much long' Josh explained.

Both sat there on the hot sand keeping an eye for the Ship and also discussing something here and there.

Suddenly the hooter was heard by everyone as they stopped talking and the ship arrived on the deep shore. Then two sets of people started moving into the ship with the 2 opened doors (out of 3). James and Josh hoped in the long line of the second row which was getting smaller by each second.

Inside was just like the ships James once sat in the Human world with many and many moving signs pointing here and there with directions such as 'Toilets' 'Garden' 'Cafeteria' 'Rooms' and 'Artificial Jungles'. Josh and James started walking in the directions for the rooms.

'Why are there Jungles in here?'

'This is a public Ship, not for now- just now reserved for the students. This Ship wanders around the word for hours and many people feel dizzy on a ship- for them there are many artificial enviroments- the stuff of the riches'

They both got to the end of the very long corridor where they opened and entered the one of only empty rooms as other rooms were already occupied by others already.

'We have to travel for 3 days straight, comfort yourself here' Josh said while dropping his luggage (which a man helped to make light by making it follow itself behind Josh) and making himself at home.

James did the same and sat onto the second bed.

'What are we supposed to do? For the next 3 days?'

'There are many fun thing here, like animals- we can play with them or just watch them or do anything you can think of, this place's huge'

James sets off wandering around while Josh was asleep ('I guess we could just skip the journey'). The Ship was much larger from inside which almost felt like a maze where James got lost twice finding the library but found help by one or another way.

He was finding the library to look up MoodsKeeper and Aiden, and find their creations to learn more about this new world.

Finally- after wandering for nearly an hour he was at the library. He got himself the Greet of Approval to read all books at the library reception using his Order Card.

He walked across from one shelf to another slowly until he found the book in which he thought would contain something about them (assuming from the cover) and when he pulled it out, it was very thick (atleast a 10,000 pages). James flipped it to the front page and found out that it wrote 'The Magical History : An Autobiography of all great Witches and Wizards'

The book was getting heavier and heavier- James opened one of the last pages to find out why, and saw that the pages were increasing, 1 per minute or even none.

He just ignored it by the fact that he was in a world full of Magic and opened the index (which too was adding people as per the pages) and found MoodsKeeper on the 307th line and flipped pages. The page was open with no image when the other people had their stick and started reading :

MoodsKeeper (1927-?)

Gender : Male

Race : Sorcerer

Age : 47 (Last Recorded : 1976)

Knowledge : MoodsKeeper kept his original name hidden. He was one of the greatest Spell Maker of his age. He did many discories along with his colleague Aiden Warlock (Page No : 708) like Laughter Menici, Jinx Hiller, Drenvandaro (Direct Protection Spell), Seivetro spell (Instant Healing Spell) and More. He disappeared on 19th of May, 1976 with no further appearance yet. His partner is still looking for him.

James didn't knew almost any if the thing listed here except for Laughter Menici, which he had in his bag and had been gifted from Ms Miller who usually wasn't at home but at her office.

James was still amused to read even if he didn't understand much and then flipped to the page for Aiden Warlock.

James seated himself down and started reading.

'James!' A familiar voice exclaimed. 'Here you've been, I was worried-it's dinner time!'

Josh was standing just beside James.

'But- I still haven't finished!' James said, who was still on Aiden's Section.

'Look-' Josh said while showing his wristwatch to James. It was already 7pm, the Magical banquet time.

James kept the book again and left through the long library to the banquet hall, which was just a small trip.

Josh was still complaining that how long it took him to find James until they reached the hall. It was lit with blue fire everywhere and students were sitting on the small tables.

James and Josh had no other option but to seat near a half occupied table with two girls sitting.

'Can we' James asked politely while Josh sat without any permission.

'Yes, please' The short girl with blue eyes said, ignoring Josh, who was getting a hovering card just above him and ordered 'Pepperoni pizza, hot chocolate, some pudding, Ice cream- and for you' He added, pointing at James.

'A burger'

'And a burger' He said while writing on the card and sent it again flying to the kitchen.

'What about you two?' Josh said, as if he knows them already.

'I am Rose- and she is Ava' The blue eyed girl added while calling the girl beside.

A silence fell through as everyone waited to hear something from Ava, the green eyed and brown haired girl sitting beside Rose, but nothing happened and then Rose suddenly broke the silence 'she doesn't like to speak'

'Nor does James'

'Hey, new to Starword- we too- come- let me show you something- the sneak Magical objects shop- we can have our supper later' Rose said to Josh.

'James?' Josh asked.

'No, you go- here- take this' James said while giving Josh the Order Card and added 'Don't waste the money'

'No- I don't need it' Josh said, awkwardly pausing and then picked the card and left without a word with Rose.

'Uhhh- Are you ready for this year' James said to Ava who was looking at

the pudding on the table just when the food Josh ordered came flying and settled it down on the table.

James grabbed the burger he ordered and started eating. 'Are you ready for this year?' James repeated.

'Yes...' finally Ava said in a barely audible voice.

'Which house are you in?'

'The Verdant's- they are loyal' Ava said, awkwardly.

'Do you know anything about the sorting ceremony?'

'Uhhh- yes- I heard they check our heart'

Check our hearts? What does she mean by it? Would they perform a surgery or what? James was thinking and didn't want anyone to see inside his heart- that would be gross.

'I actually don't know much myself' she said, in a bit higher voice which James had an easy time hearing.

'Do you like spells- I like it- At Least from what I've heard'

'Yes- I do, my father is a duelist' she said, finally normally.

'What- a duelist'

'A person who entertains by battling- don't you know? Dueling is famous- are- like- are you new here?'

'Yes I am new here, I lived on Earth'

'Earth?'

'Sorry- uhh- yes- Midgard' James said while finishing his burger and as soon as he finished: the empty plate flew away.

'So- are you a half- a half blood?'

'No- no, my parents are magicians- sorcerers- sorry I meant Sorcerers- or so do I think'

'What do you mean? You think, don't you know them?'

'No, my- my dad's best man told me, Jason'

'Jason?' she said, as if shocked. Ava moved closer and spoke in a manner that only James could hear him.

'Jason- do you know anything about his current case about Barlowe?' Ava stated.

'What case- Barlowe'

'My father told me, Barlowe killed a hundred people while attacking Aiden'

James Had finished his food and had left to sleep. Josh got to the room and slept onto the second bed just beside his. The next day they did nothing much and just

went on a boring expenditure to look at some magical animals where Gribbon had the most fun meeting others like him.

On the third day James couldn't sleep thinking of going to the school- he had just a month ago got to this world and now he will be able to use some magic for himself- finally.

Moreover, Josh's high snoring didn't help James either.

The next day, after the announcement ('TO THE STARWORD SCHOOL UNDER AN HOUR') James packed all his stuff again along with a few books he bought from the library.

Finally the hooter was heard and the Ship started slowing down to the wooden port which was barely visible from the window as light mist covered the area.

The lines started leaving the Ship after another announcement and made their way down. This was a long line they had to wait because they were late again but the lines crippled down fast.

James got to the very end of the line and walked down the deck. He saw a magnificent castle lit with blue fire torches but the second thing he noticed- he was in a large lake instead of the ocean he thought they were traveling through.

James got down to the largest dry tree he had ever seen, to the castle where everyone else was going.

They had to walk across to get to the entrance of the castle. It was an enormous wooden gate with chains dangling from sides. All the students walked into the gates to a stair hallway. Made up of all kinds of stairs: small, big, old, golden, royal and the largest one at the center where there were standing 2 adults.

It was Aiden standing along with a lady dressed in bottle green and black gown with golden spectacles.

'Hello, new comers- I am your Hand Arts and Human studies Teacher, Ms Scarlet'

'And I am Aiden...'

As soon as Aiden announced his name the while hall was silenced with excitement and while Aiden continued, James saw a small group near the old staircase formed by Robert Ranvier, with another boy and Rose.

All of them were made follow the two teachers through the grand staircase into a large hall with a stage at the very end where the other teachers were sitting and where Aiden and Ms Scarlet sat.

At the center of the stage was a big speech booth where Ms Scarlet went up to And instructed everyone to make four different lines- 2 for boys and 2 for girls.

James and Josh was sorted into the center line just beside the girls one at right where Ava and rose were standing and Robert was on the last boys line followed by his same friend.

'Welcome to the Starword School of Sorcery- here welcome our Head Master'

A man in orange robes bought a tray on which a very old book was kept and he laid it onto the speech booth.

'A book?' James directed his question to Josh.

'Yes- the school is sentient and it's brain is in the book- it is believed that the 1st headmaster used dark magic to be settled in the book' Ava hissed and Josh looked quite as surprised as James.

'You'll have to talk to the book and your heart will be checked to see your true nature and to sort you into the perfect house' Ms Scarlet explained. 'One from the girls and another from the boys'

First a girl went followed by a boy and one chance for each, they started writing and reading, and after a while Ms Scarlet announced Verdant and Midnight respectively.

The line was shortening and people were being sorted into their houses. 'Roselia- another Roselia- Amethyst- Midnight- Amethyst- Roselia- Verdant- One more Verdant'

The sorted student stood silently at the corner waiting till others are sorted. Ava was sorted into Verdant but Rose was sorted into Roselia ('Ofcourse' Josh sighed).

'That's what they meant by checking our hearts' James thought to himself.

It was Josh's turn in no time and he sat there writing on some occasions and reading on others but then suddenly 'Verdant!'. Josh got to the herd of people already sorted.

'James Taylor!'

James got up to the booth and picked up the pen and wrote 'Hello' On the book which disappeared at once.

'James- I am the book- I will see into your heart and would like to judge you onto your true morals, should I?' The book was written back which disappeared as soon as James finished reading.

He didn't know what to write so he just wrote 'Yes'.

'You are a person I would trust- A loyal person- I've never seen any like you for centuries- you don't seek anything more than nothing- you have suffered a great loss which made you wise- You have something great written in your destiny' Was written in the book.

James' heart was pounding with delight as he read those words thinking that at least he is not useless in the world of Magic.

'You posses power like the Amethysts- you are smart like the Roselias- you can do anything for others like the Midnights and you are- as I said Loyal like the Verdants. You have me confused- I guess, it will be nice to leave the decision in your hands' The book wrote.

James immediately knew the answer, he wrote back into the disappearing pages 'Verdant'

'Well, so you chose- Verdant'

'VERDANT' Ms Scarlet Screamed and made James go where the other people were standing after their sorting and were discussing their houses.

Slowly everyone was sorted and Robert was at last been sorted into the Midnight House.

'Everyone get to your respective house huts and receive your activator their- oh, sorry- *Icinto*'

The words made all the student's matching robes be colored according to their house Magically. All the verdants had bottle green highlights and a Griffin at the centre- the midnight had pure black robes with and owls- the Roselias had red with Unicorns and the Amethysts had purple with dragons.

Ms Scarlet made an much older boy in gold white clothes lead the crowd to their rooms.

They walked through large passages, longs staircases and fianaly to the much smaller gates leading to the house huts. The house huts were large wooden houses designed and colored with the respective color of the house.

Just around the doors of each house were 4 very old boys standing around, wearing the same robes. All the student's were separated according to their respective house huts along with a boy leading each of the four groups.

'Good Afternoon students, I am your house leader, Mason Allen. Your fellow seniors elected me one' The Verdant House Person said. 'Follow me'.

The interior of the Verdant House was decorated with bottle green and golden highlights. At the center were four huge tables arranged symmetrically and a large desk for teachers at the other end of the hall. There were many small bookshelves, plants and smaller tables scattered around the hall.

'This is where you are gonna stay for the rest of your school years-' Mason explained. 'Come along' He added while leading them to the teachers desk where many items were scattered around carefully like watches, glasses, bands, rings and many more things James couldn't make out.

Mason pointed at the items and then showed his own watch.

'These are Activators, hover your hand above them and see which one

suits you the best'

'How would we?' A boy in front of Josh asked.

'Nothing, it'll just show a sign- some sign- you- yes you, go on'

All the people were made into a line and had to hover their hand above the objects until one shakes.

'A watch, cool- bracelets- another- watch- shoes- robes, the worst- bracelet- glasses, pretty good' Mason was commentating from behind the crowd.

Ava who required some time before a pair of round glasses shook under hand and she picked it up and wore it.

This continued for quite a while before Josh got his number and the task wasn't long either. He had easily got a watch as soon as he began.

Just after Josh was James and James hovered his hand above all the items but nothing shook.

'Try again, might be some fault' Mason said, looking tense.

James hovered his hand again over all the items but nothing happened again. By the time Mason was near James, giving him all the possible other items from the drawers under the table like a pair of socks, inhaler, underwear and the worst: some rotten food.

Mason was physically shaking when the excitement behind in the students rose.

'I would lose all my chances at it' Mason said, bitterly. 'My dreams, crushed- no way they don't make me leave this- I'm failing my job'

He went quite pale and still, thinking of something and then suddenly he flinched- he had got something in his mind. He ran fast through the restricted section door and returned instantly grabbing an old and long wood box with some old erased writings on it.

He made a small space to keep the box and laid it onto the table.

He opened the box as safely as possible and inside it was an old wooden stick covered in dust and protected by some red foam padding.

James heard many gasps from behind the crowd and one of which he assumed was Josh while the other students were trying to get their way through in the rampage to take a look.

'James' Mason said while pushing aside the crowd to make a way for James to get to the stick.

James had got the sign and hovered his hand above the stick- the stick started to shake harder and harder and finally got to James' hand.

A silence fell through the students and Mason looked relieved.

'All can move to their house and settle this fast, I'll need to have a quick

word with Professor Scarlet about this- and James, you go to your room, I will guide you'

Mason made the others continue by themselves as he and James went through the right door to entrance, descending down and into a long passageway with many turns and was lit up with doors on each side with numbers.

James was continuously wondering why everyone was so shocked to see him get that Wand as his activator and before he could ask anything to Mason they were already near the room after passing a great hall.

'Get in- I'll have to leave- and anything you'd want?' He added before leaving.

'Just- just make Josh live beside'

'I'll try, James'

James got into the room and found Oscar already lying there in his usual sleeping position- he had completely forgotten about Oscar through this dilemma.

He sat there looking nervously at his wand for sometime before someone knocks on the door.

He opens up to find an floating head of Mason and immediately notices that Josh from one and Ava from the other side came to the same messenger.

'Classes will begin from tomorrow, enjoy' Mason's head said and then vanished.

James could hear the same message distantly from other common rooms in real time.

Ava left as soon as the head busted and Josh was dragged by loud growls of Grubbin just after he was about to invite James for some snacks. James also got in his room and was glad that he and Josh shared the same common room and had a room just besides the other.

Chapter 4

The Order at School

James didn't go out much during the following day in the fear of getting lost except for the dinner at night, which was a short walk along with Josh, Ava and a short but fat boy: Kiaan sharing the same common room- to the House Hut entrance tables.

Before sleeping James felt an odd urge to use magic after he had finally got his activator so he got Josh up and sat down in a corner of their common room lit with a single and small lamp.

'Do you know why everyone else was zooming at my activator'

'Yeah, not much. I know that it's a wand which those Wizards use to channel their power and it's rare, that's it'

They both started looking up spells from their spells book (Book-O-Spells) and James found the perfect spell to try out for the first time: light spell but Josh disagreed as he wanted something "better".

Josh suddenly pointed at a page for levitating object and demanded James to try off first but James disagreed this time as the warning clearly stated "Warning: If underage or lemy user, perform under adult supervision".

Josh ignored the warning and still made James perform while James' mind was on the word lemy.

'Levero' James whispered. BAAM

A loud explosion happened and James heard footsteps arriving to their room from the long passageway.

Both grabbed their activators and books before hurrying to their respective rooms and James scurried back onto his bed and could hear footsteps come and go.

The next day James found a sheet lying on the bedside table which wasn't there yesterday. He examined it and it was his timetable of the week with the first lecture being Mage History at the classroom beside the main hall and below Professor Drake's room.

James got ready fast as he realized that he was running late for the class and traced back his way to the classroom decorated with many people from different ages including the unmistakable Aiden Warlock.

James narrowly opened the door so he could slip in without anyone

noticing and for most of it worked but before James could go up to the closest desk.

'Welcome Mr' Professor Drake announced triumphantly. 'What inspired you to come late to your very first lecture?'

James was speechless and accidentally dropped his pen, he immediately bent to pick it up, listening to all the giggles of the rest of the classroom.

'What am I asking you- Mr- uh?'

A very faint sigh left James' mouth 'James- James Taylor'

'Ahh, look Mr. James, you have successfully wasted 15 minutes of education in your puny little life. Go- get back and never repeat'

James walked to the only empty and the worst seat in the entire class, the very 1st one just in front of Professor Drake.

'Does anyone know anything about Avengence?- no?'

The class went silent with nobody daring to raise their hand.

'Nobody? Avengence is the Magical revolution in the 4th bce, it originally happened near Maharashtra in India' He answered the blank faces of students he got as his answer.

'Sir, my father told me that we were all those...' A boy from the other end of the classroom asked.

'Wizards, got it. Yes. We were them until the second Avengence when the very first Sorcerer was born'

James had finally gathered all the courage to ask the very question he was thinking for a very long time now 'Sir, what's a lemy?'

'A very peculiar question from the-boy-who-came-late' Professor Drake sighed as the class again filled with laughter. 'Still I will answer his rather weird queries. Lemy is a Wizard born Sorcerer or for us, a Sorcerer born Wizard'

James was feeling very embarrassed when he sat down still hearing people laughing at him for not knowing such a basic thing.

'Avengence leads us to the first war of Trade, before we came here in this dimension...'

James was relieved to hear the loud bell ring and finally leave the classroom. This was the most boring lecture he ever had as he had got a very large sum of homework due tomorrow but the next one was spells and James couldn't wait for it to begin but there was a short thirty minute break between each lecture for one to prepare for the next lecture.

James deposited all his book in his room and went up for a small walk alone as Josh was busy testing his new "stuff".

While he was passing through the Hall of Stairs he noticed that two very

powerful looking men were guarding a cloth wrapped box the size of his bag. James couldn't do more than ignore it and continued to walk through and after a while heard the warning bell rang and hurried to his room to get his next subject's stuff and books as only ten minutes were remaining for the next lecture to begin.

The spells class went pretty much students asking autograph of Professor Aiden including Josh who stood very first in the class long lane of students.

Professor Warlock wasn't able to teach much as he was busy giving his autograph and even before the last student got his, the bell rang. James couldn't care less about him and thought other students were just overreacting to Aiden's presence.

'You don't understand how great he is' Josh explained when James accidentally brought Aiden up while walking towards their lunch.

The lunch was just like the dinner, the student had to get their own plates and then self-serve the food from the Magical banquet. He was on some ice cream when Professor Scarlet entered the Hut.

'Verdants, your rest of the classes have been canceled and you are not permitted to go near the third block for today as there is Order involved in the matter now, do you understand?' Professor Scarlet announced.

Everyone agreed but in an undertone and as soon as Professor Scarlet left, Josh hissed 'Today we had Human Studies, I was excited- and why is Order even here- do you think my father's here too?'

James was fixed on the conclusion that the Order was there for whatever there was in that box and why was Josh excited to learn about Humans?

As soon as Josh mentioned his dad and Order, it clicked into James' mind: Jason works for the Order and had said that he would visit his school sometime- he might be here.

Carrying this thought James finished his food fast, left his plates, changed the clothes and told everything to Josh.

'Yeah, I'll help. I don't have anymore work and that sounds fun' Josh agreed.

After their lunch, both left to find Jason avoiding the eyes of teachers for the run. Every other ministry member was seen there except for Jason (and Josh's father) guarding something super heavily.

'Josh' A familiar voice exclaimed. Josh immediately recognized the voice coming into view and he gave a very visible twitch of excitement.

'Dad' Josh sighed while grabbing the stranger's coat, which got almost torn by Josh as he hugged him.

'Why are you here?' Josh's dad said while trying to lose his grip. 'You're not supposed to be here!'

'We were- just- looking for his Godfather' Josh said, finally leaving his dad and pointing at James. James nods in agreement.

'And who are you?' Josh's father said sarcastically.

'James- James Taylor' James said as politely as possible- he didn't want his first impression of his best friend's dad to go wrong.

'Sorry, James- he is my father, Henry' Josh said casually while pointing at his dad.

'You both still weren't supposed to be looking for someone in the restricted area- and why would that person even be here?' Mr Miller exploded.

'He works with you, dad- Jason'

'Jason! Martin. Good friend. Great man' Mr Miller calmed down. 'He's not yet here, but he'll be, next week- and I suppose for you both to get down and back to your rooms- RIGHT NOW'

'Bye- bye dad' James exhaled.

They both turned their ways and Josh abruptly crouched near the sideway stairs so that Mr Miller can't see them and James followed the same and crept just behind Josh.

'What are we doing?' James whispered.

'Do you want to end this journey already?' Josh hissed back.

James heard Mr Miller's footsteps go down the opposite stairs and Josh finally got up followed by James.

They both wandered through the corridors, admiring one sight after the other. 'Look that's a living dead, not exactly a zombie but one with flesh ripped out. Much less dangerous- look, the library's restricted section, only teachers- look at the walking dead statue. It guards at night and tries to kill mosquitoes in the morning- ahh. The Potions- get in, there is something I wanna show you'

Josh walked into the Potions lab with many cauldrons and transparent tubes lying filled with different Potions, some steaming, bubbling, vaporizing and some still as water but much thicker.

Josh walked at the very end of the classroom and pointed at a unusual looking cauldron with a yellow, gross and bubbling liquid filled in. It smelled horrible near the potion.

'This is the one I read in Aiden's book, Life in Starword. It helps to control somebody else- completely' Josh added dramatically as he was glaring at the potion. 'Shall we carry some back?'

'NO' James said stubbornly.

A pair of footsteps was heard outside the classroom and Josh being Josh,

leapt forward to see what's happening and pushed James aside to get past him in the narrow place.

James got a hold of himself but felt as though something wet was dripping of his clothes- it was another pink potion which was emitting the horrible smell which he suspected the yellow one to do earlier.

He tried to get it off as much as possible but still a large chunk remained intact.

'Professor, what do you think?'

The pair was now coming into the classroom and Josh already hid beneath one of the tables James scurried to avoid the teachers but accidentally spilled another potion.

'Why is that book being brought here? In such safety, for 3 months?' The same voice repeated.

'Must be something really important' the other voice replied- it was the unmistakable voice from earlier. Professor Scarlet and one other teacher were there.

'But why here? Do you have any idea?' Asked the other Professor to Professor Scarlet.

'I've heard they're getting it from the Guards of Ranvier from the WallClaw Museum. School is the middle point. The next ferry is three months later' Answered Professor Scarlet.

'Makes sense' was the last words James could hear before they both left after getting a roll of paper from the teacher's desk. Josh got to his feet followed by James.

'Now I can take some' Josh said while taking a few drops of the yellow potion into a small tube.

'JOSEPH MILLER AND JAMES TAYLOR!' A thundering voice came from behind their backs. James was trembling with fear of getting suspended on his first day and by the sound, it was another Professor.

'WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE RESTRICTED BLOCK?' The Professor thundered.

'N- nothing'

'And Mr Miller, why are you carrying the dilute potion with you?'

Josh's grip tightened on the tube as he tried his best to hide it behind his clothes.

'As this is a matter with The Order, I'll have to involve the principal here with both of you- wait here, STILL and don't touch anything. It may kill you at once'

He left the classroom with a very bad mood and Josh along with James

were still trembling with fear.

Josh got to his senses back and walked sneakily to the door- looked around and checked no one was there and left. A while later he returned and whispered 'Do you want to be suspended?'

James followed Josh through the stairs into the Hall of Stairs and they sneaked their way into their room without anyone noticing as everyone was in their room doing the large sums of homework given by Professor Drake.

James' heart was pounding as he sat on his bed watching Oscar curl up on his lamp. He was too scared to even move so he sat there and after a while got up and started on his homework.

Days passed and finally the class got their very first real Spells class after everyone was bored of Aiden and had got used to the fact of him being with them. He started with them from their mind concentration and how to use their activators.

He had to teach every type of activator and the way of spell casting. 'No hold it's like this- yes. Tilt sideways and say *Ayumpuss*. No, no- wave your wand slightly and then say with a clear mind- yes, great. You'll be there and you...'

Aiden had James for extra classes for his Wand practice as he was alone in the school with his wand type and it would have been a waste of time to teach him alone during classes.

James was first very scared for the first class with Professor Scarlet after the Potions incident on every Thursday and Friday as the lecture on Monday got canceled.

She taught them Human Studies about which everyone in the class was super excited ever since the class got canceled.

It went weird for only James who had been living in the Human World for his life learning about Computers now and he was the only one who knew how to use them.

Professor Scarlet picked James and another dark haired boy to demonstrate the use of Flappy Bird. Everyone in the class seemed so impressed by James just knowing everything including Professor Scarlet yet the serious look on her face was carried out throughout the lesson.

After the bell rang (Disappointing most Students) she called James and Josh went out alone after the class had left.

'Professor Harris told me everything' She said quietly.

James knew what was about to happen- he was gonna get removed from the school. He felt his legs and arms go numb as he stood there not daring to glimpse Josh.

'Very Disappointing that one of my house students would disobey the rules- the one famously known for their loyalty'

James couldn't dare look up, his eyes were fixed at his foot with remorse but Josh was looking much unworried compared to James, looking silently towards Professor Scarlet.

'No suspension yet' She finally stopped the silence. These words gave a small pipe of hope through James as he was now feeling much better but still the guilt swallowing him.

'But if I see it being repeated- I wouldn't hesitate- disperse' She added as she started packing her stuff for lunch.

Days passed and James had gotten used to his new school timings and Professor Scarlet's grudge for James and Josh grew fainter. It was his first Sunday when he got up and found another piece of paper just like a week earlier with their timetable written on it.

James went on to have his breakfast in the morning with Josh. It felt weird for James that Ava was getting warmer towards him and unfriendly towards Josh as the days passed. She frequently started small talks with James to then just get interrupted by Josh.

'Hay! James! here- come here' Josh exclaimed from the other table, interrupting Ava and James, who were talking about Defensery Hand Arts classes which were to be stationed in the coming of this June.

James left Ava and walked forward towards Josh who was having himself to some pudding.

'Wanna meet Jason? He is coming today isn't he?'

'No- we have made much trouble already, haven't we?'

'Come on! wandering is allowed on weekends and the ban to the third block is now only till the potions third block- please- don't wanna meet Jason?'

James couldn't say no to such a great offer so he and Josh agreed to leave after the Lunch and try to find Jason.

After the lunch, both directly left their huts without informing others where they were going.

The whole castle was heavily guarded with Order men as though to protect something and the protection got even heavier near the Potions Third Block where the guards stopped them from entering.

Finally, after they had crossed the Library Block, they found Jason standing there with two other order members. He let the order members away as soon as he saw James coming.

‘Told you, I would be here’ Jason said while he glanced at them, in a warm sort of way for James

‘But why’ James asked, expecting no answers.

‘We need to move something to the Guards of Ranvier’

‘Which only opens once every two years’ Josh said, grabbing Jason’s attention towards him.

‘Smart fellow- aren’t you the son of Miller?’

Jason nodded.

‘What are you getting to that Guards of Ranvier?’

‘I can’t tell you, James. It’s confidential’ Jason said with a look of disappointment.

‘Wait- that Guards thing is opening next year, so- are you here till next year?’ James asked brightly.

‘No- No’ Jason said with a forced smile. ‘I have other works too at the Order- and Josh- your dad always likes to mention you- he says you’re smart, handsome...’

Suddenly something clicked into James’ mind. ‘My parents’ he sighed.

‘What?’ Jason said, surprised.

‘You told me you’ll tell me about them when I meet you’ James said, eager to make him confess.

‘Not now, I will tell you when it’s the time’ Jason said, seriously.

They had to leave Jason after a while as the other Order members had called him for something related to books, near the library. James and Josh moved on towards their room again, when they spotted an Order member talking to the other one about the secret object being guarded so heavily.

‘Do you know what it is?’ The first person asked.

‘No, but it was a book when we packed it in’ The second person replied in an excited tone.

‘Why does someone need to give such security to a BOOK?’

‘I don’t know, might have something important in it’

Josh and James got no other opportunity to sneak out again except for their strolls around the castle on Sundays which were joined by Ava, sometimes, when Josh wasn’t able to come for some “Important Business”.

As June came driving close, the excitement for one thing rose: Defensary Arts. All kinds of rumours were being circulated throughout the school ‘They’re gonna start by death curses’ James heard a group of girls talk near the Midnight hut.

‘There is no such thing like Defensary Arts’ he heard a group of second years chatting at the dinner table.

‘Moodskeeper is gonna teach us’ James heard Robert talk to his friends. ‘Moodskeeper is dead’ thought James but from inside he really wanted to see who Moodskeeper was.

Months were passing and James had a wide expectation of meeting Jason, finally at least after meeting him this time, he would confess about his father. He always went toward classes expecting him to suddenly pop up and confess about his parents.

James also had a lot of homework, a lot. He never had this much homework back on Earth. He was often seen with Josh in their common room, doing their homework and sometimes even with Ava.

Their homework wasn’t just reading-writing and doing assignments but they had other tasks like one day Professor Rita, their Plants teacher, told them to collect the baby dragon breath, which were left open in the grounds for the purpose.

James was going on a journey today to finally find the Baby Dragons for Professor Rita, which were going to be taken out in the next four days (‘They would grow up’) as he had been delaying this task for weeks. Josh was again busy with his “Important Stuff” and couldn’t come with James.

‘I will find mine in seconds, don’t worry and go on yourself’ Josh explained to James when he asked him out for finding the baby dragons.

James immediately knew who to get- Ava. He packed his Wipo Bottle, which he had been given by Professor Rita herself to make the job easier. James knocked on her room door- she opened the door.

‘Ohh, hello James’ Ava said, she was having a ton of dark circles under her eyes, her hair were all jumbled up and she spoke in a very odd manner.

‘I was trying to get some- dragon breaths- would you mind’

‘I was looking for them days over- night also but nothing’ she said, in a bad temper.

‘Mind helping?’

‘I would need more help than you’

James understood what she was saying: he was the know-it-all amongst their class and had already got multiple invitations to this task but he declined them all.

‘Your expertise would help my sleep’

They both had left the castle grounds and were wandering around looking for something moving.

‘I am doing this same thing all month!’ Ava said, giving up.

‘Wait- have you checked near the forest areas? Baby dragons love bushes to hide’

Ava’s face was lit up with disbelief. ‘How could I be such a Idiot?’ she said angrily to herself while getting up.

Now they were patrolling near the forest edges around their Plants classroom which was a hut, deep somewhere in the forest.

They had no discoveries until Ava heard a stream of water from somewhere deep in the forest and called James to take a look. Both of them followed the noise of rushing water through the deep trunks of wood.

They were soon near a stream of running water from a high up rock where there were two dragons resting. James called Ava back when he saw she was effortlessly climbing up to them with no precaution.

‘Are you and IDIOT, they’re hostile creatures’ James hissed while pulling Ava back behind the bushes to hide.

‘Sorry’ Ava hissed back.

‘You go and collect the breath from that sleeping dragon while I lure the other one here and get the second bottle of breath- ready?’ James devised a plan.

Ava nodded and crept behind just in the right angle to be closest to the sleeping dragon and James saw her crawling up to the dragon.

Something happened and the dragon was awake- shooting flames aimlessly around, trying to find someone and just when he was looking up the opposite direction, she crept and got his flames into her bottle which turned from flaming yellow and orange to bright purple.

Ava returned, carrying the bottle while both the dragons were furiously looking for her.

‘Great, thanks we are here or I would have been toasted’ She said confidently.

‘What did you do to make him so angry?’ James asked.

‘Pinched him’ Ava said, in a formal tone.

James was ready but it was much scarier than he thought because Ava had already angered them. He went along the bushes like Ava while she was looking curiously from behind and when he reached there he didn’t wait the dragons to turn around but jumped forward.

Both dragons noticed him right away and were chasing after him while he ran towards the stream of water and jumped.

The dragons stayed dry on the ground waiting for James to come back up and then one of them shot a burst of fire towards James and lucky for him: he had held his Wipo bottle up and soon after it filled with the purple breath.

James stuffed the bottle inside his clothes and swam forward to the other end while the dragons stayed put on their location, trying to fry but weren't able to do so.

When he got up and wiped all the possible water left ('Drio'), he waved and commanded Ava to meet him directly at the castle at dinner time.

Chapter 5

Defensary Krutos

James had gotten to his room and found Ava in her room who had already started to use the Dragon Breath to make the divisionary potion. James said bye to her as it was already noon and went his way to make his potion in his own room.

James had skipped his dinner accidentally as it was night when he wasn't even close to be finished. He packed all his stuff and went off to meet Josh who had also skipped his dinner and was sitting on his bed with a pop head beside him, which disappeared as soon as James entered while Josh slid everything on his bed behind the head rest.

'What are you doing?' James asked.

'Nothing- nothing, just was about to sleep' Josh said, looking startled and surprised to see James.

'Well I was about to sleep and thought of checking on you- are you done with your "Important Stuff" by now?'

'Well- yeah, I myself was going to sleeping now, bye'

Josh suddenly slammed the door shut with no warning so James had to go to sleep already, he thought that Josh might finally tell him about his "Important Stuff" today but NO.

Soon the Sunday arrived which James had been waiting ever since the start of the month: he found the timetable listing Defensary Arts as their second lecture on this Wednesday.

The classes before Wednesday all the students in the back seats, where James and Josh sat, talking about the Defensary Arts. What is this Defensary Arts? What is going to be in it? It's the most important subject in the curriculum, but why?

James' head was filled with all kinds of thoughts and questions, he felt as though he was back in the days when he was new to Mage Realm and had to ask for everything's functionality but this time there was no one he could ask. So, it all only went as some curious question.

All the excitement died off on the Breakfast table on Tuesday when Mason entered carrying a large sheet of paper with ink markings all over the place.

‘I am very happy to announce it!’ Mason began to read. ‘That this year’s Spellora competition auditions for each house will begin from the twelfth of July. Each student must come to the seventeenth block for the audition. A member from each house will be selected.

‘One must learn all the necessary defense spells to participate. On the following Wednesday to the audition date: there will be a grand feast where the representatives will be announced.’ Mason stopped reading, took a deep breath and continued.

‘All the later instructions will be given by the house leader himself.’ he said, feeling proud.

As soon as he finished, the crowd on the tables began a loud applause for the news and James along with Josh joined in. ‘What is Spellora?’ James thought but had no chance asking Josh about it as he was all round up talking to others about the same.

They all soon finished their lunch and were hurrying to their respective rooms to get the necessary items for the next lecture.

‘What is Spellora?’ James asked Josh when they were leaving for their Plants class.

‘You don’t know Spellora?’ Josh said, looking shocked. ‘It’s an internationally played game where there is a set amount of people sent into a boundary locked area where the player has to find all the ranked items to gain points and the one with the most points WINS!

It’s the only sport or only event when Wizards and us- Sorcerers come along in peace and play it... We won the last Cup- wonder who wins this year- I’m totally participating’

‘So it’s a kind of treasure hunt, isn’t it?’ James said, with an excited voice.

‘Sort of. Are you in?’

‘Totally’ James said but he had zero hopes of getting selected as he has no idea of anything.

‘Will you come with me to the library after school? We’ll try to find spells’

‘Umm, yes’

They had already reached the Hut where they were gonna submit the Dragon Breaths they collected.

James sat down in the field with Josh as Professor Rita was looking at each breath and was measuring the density of it.

‘Not much fear, might be much more powerful, next- more fear, great job- excellent! amazing fear’ she was ranking each breath by just smelling and touching it.

‘What does she mean by fear?’ Josh hissed to James. ‘Why is she calculating fear and what’s that to do with power?’

James shrugged.

The line was getting shorter as the students who had already been ranked moved inside the Hut.

‘Don’t know why you people don’t take it seriously, it counts for your internals’ Professor Rita was scolding a boy who wasn’t able to find any baby dragons.

‘Josh-’ she called. ‘Looks like you’ve got the most breath among all- wait’ she sniffed upon it twice- thrice. Josh was looking more nervous than James had ever seen him.

‘Nice trick- you thought you’d fool me. It isn’t real breath- it’s a potion oriented breath- that won’t work, ZERO’ she angrily shoved Josh aside while letting the other students come.

‘Now Josh’s best friend, James’

James got up and handed his bottle to Professor Rita. She looked at it for a moment and then got up from her armchair.

‘Looks like you’ve got the least among the class- well-’ she said while raising his bottle high up so everyone can see. Everyone started laughing and Professor Rita started sniffing the bottle and looking at it. James was visibly shaking, he felt his balance go away.

‘But it’s the best quality any first year has ever shown to me in my thirty four year old career’

Everyone stopped laughing abruptly and now were cheering and clapping for him. James felt a rush of happiness through his body. He liked this feeling, he wanted more but everyone stopped after a while and Professor Rita sat back on her armchair.

‘Does anyone know: why I am calculating fear here?’

No one spoke.

‘Dragons- especially baby ones don’t get angry easily. They only attack when they are threatened, when they feel fear. This fear makes them shoot flames which are harvested to make these breaths’

‘These breaths help make a lot of potions like the one I gave you homework- Divisionary Potion... The fear inside the dragon results in sometimes higher power, when he is more fearful of sometimes lower, when he is least feared’

She again resumed checking the density of fear inside the breaths. James was feeling as though he was going to top this year in Plants and Human Studies.

‘Now who has made their Divisionary Potions already?’ Professor Rita said when she finished checking. Only a single hand rose of Ava’s. She was called forward to show her potion.

‘Now can anyone tell me what this potion does?’ she said while again holding the potion up so that everyone could see but no one answered her question and stayed quiet.

‘OK- Ms Ava, would you mind?’

‘A-alright- The divisionary potion makes you remember anything you read for a certain time- which depends upon the density of Dragon breath- but you will forget the thing after the time’

Rrrriiiiiinnnnngggggg!

Professor Rita returned all the breaths back to their owners and made them go for their Lunch.

Wednesday arrived, James and Josh skipped their Human Studies for spending time researching for their Spellora Audition as James had promised Josh to teach everything later.

They went through every book in the Self-Defence section and wrote down everything they felt might be helpful on a piece of paper.

They found many interesting spells like Stunning Spells, Knockout Spells, Blocking Spells and the one James felt the most interesting: Krutos, the killing spell.

He didn’t tell Josh about the killing spell as he felt Josh would like to try it out as an “experiment”.

After writing almost three pages worth of spells, they felt they should leave for their Defensary Arts Class. They both went back to their respective rooms and gathered the books of spells and notebooks they thought they’ll need today.

They both left their Huts and waited outside the Defensary Classroom near the second block which was sealed and would only open when at least nine students were there like the doors in any other classrooms.

Soon many people from all houses started gathering around the door and in no time the door opened. James was shocked to see students from all different houses but from the same year gathering for a single lecture.

‘It is gonna be useful for the Spellora Audition, I am surely gonna be selected this year ’ James heard Robert talking to his other Midnight friend: Aarav Kumar.

James had managed to keep a neutral friendship with Robert and his gang which consisted of boys from all different houses; but Josh didn't know about this.

James was now more nervous about Josh knowing that James and Robert are friends than the excitement for learning new spells for their Spellora auditions.

James kept glancing over to Josh then Robert and then back at Josh to see if he was about to pick fights with Robert again. Robert and Josh haven't met ever since their first day here.

James even tried to keep Josh busy while trying to start a new conversation about Spellora but at the very moment an old, bald man came into the class, holding his hand up for silence.

He had the duller colors James had even seen on him with many battle scars on his face. He had a wooden arm which somehow was able to bend and an eye patch on his left eye.

Everyone greeted him ('GOOD AFTERNOON SIR!') and then sat back down.

'I am Aera-' he said in a terribly-croaky voice. 'I will be teaching you the best of spells I can to make you ready for the hardest of times- which is now'

Professor Aera coughed hard and sat down on the chair, still coughing.

'Does everyone here know the basic of protection spells you need to know to even survive in this time'

No one answered.

'The most basic one is *Drivleilo*, the stunning spell. No one can escape that. But use it only if it is an emergency or if a- Wizard attacks you'

Robert turned his face down in shame as the other students gave each other a surprised but angry look. James had never heard anybody talk about Wizards before except Josh.

'DON'T LOOK AT THAT BOY' Professor Aera shouted at Josh as he was staring at Robert with an expression of grudge. 'He is innocent- just part wizard- who, again?- Josh, if we behave the same they behave with us: then what is the difference between them and US!'

'I expect better- we are not here to teach hate but to defend ourselves- begin the practice for *Driveleio*...'

He taught each one present there how to position, hold and wave their hands to perform the spell: *Driveleilo*. Many succeeded in trying it on Professor Aera himself when he blocked them and some needed more practice.

James and Josh, both made it on their second try; Ava did it at once and Robert needed special help with landing his fingers correctly.

Everyone managed it within an hour and after teaching everyone he settled back down on his armchair.

‘Well- now- you all know the basic stunning spell- it is the time for advance blocking- surviving it is going to be difficult. Can anyone please tell me: the best defence and attack spell of all time’

James knew what was coming, he read the exact same words in the library: *Krutos*. He alone raised his hands. Professor Aera made him stand and answer right away.

‘*Krutos*’ James murmured to himself.

‘Exactly’ Professor Aera said, coldly. ‘The killing spell- the one which needs more practice- the one which is the most important’

Everyone had their face turn hard as rock on the words ‘Killing Spell’ including James himself.

‘We will learn this in batches’ Professor Aera said while getting up. He pulled a small dragonfly which wasn’t moving at all out from his coat and placed it on his table. ‘*Ouleilo*’ he shouted and the dragon fly became normal and tried flying away.

Professor Aera lifted his hand, pointed his ring and middle finger towards the dragonfly and coldly yelled ‘*Krutum*’.

The dragonfly stopped flying and fell down on the lap of Rose, dead. She yelled with all her might before Professor Aera used the levitation spell to lift the fly and smack it out from the window.

Rose was crying now along with a few other girls sitting beside her. Everyone was stunned by the word ‘*Krutum*’ and no one moved until the bell rang, which made James feel as relieved as never before.

‘Dismiss’ Professor Aera shouted as the class hurried off as fast as possible out of the room. ‘James Taylor- you will be staying’

James’ heart was thumping real hard and he couldn’t feel his finger, not to talk about moving them. He waited until everyone was out and the hall was empty with Professor Aera and James in it.

Professor Aera called James forward and commanded him to show his wand.

‘Do you know who uses these’

‘Yes- Wizards’ James muttered.

‘Yes- we were all wizards before Avengence and now we are all sorcerers. Wizards think they are underpowered than us- this led them to do hilariously dangerous things in the past and the present. Well, do you know whose wand is this?’

James said no.

‘It’s the wand of the peacemaker- the very first Sorcerer. He gifted this wand to our school before dying. It has never chosen any other master than he himself but now- you’

James had started to feel his senses come back again and he could now move his fingers. Now, staying with Professor Aera wasn't a bad idea either.

‘I know your past tragedies- Your father- your parents- well I should not talk about them, sorry about them’

James felt a very bad urge to ask what happened to his parents, what is tragic about him and about his parents? but every cell in his body was against it, at least for now.

James wasn't able to believe himself, everything that happened today: Krutos, something tragic about his parents but the only single thing which kept him from collapsing on his bed was the realisation that he was special, at least his wand was and now he knew why it was the only activator of it's type.

James was back to their common room where Josh and Ava sat in silence, on sofas far away from each other. James went and seated himself near Josh.

‘That- that fly’ Josh said, still looking in deep sorrow of the fly dying back then.

James himself sat there in silence before Josh finally broke it.

‘Why- why is he already teaching us the death spe- spells? Isn't that meant to be for older- older people?’

‘I- I don't know’ James replied. All the urge of telling Josh about his wand died off from his mind.

‘And- what are those bad times he's makin' us learn these spells for?’ Josh said, angrily.

As the days passed, James and Josh started spending more time in libraries along with many other students. The fifth block library had now started to be crowded at any given time.

Students from all houses and ages had started coming to learn new spells.

James and Josh had enough spells to do the practice theoretical and had to start on practicing the spells using their activators.

‘We'll start today! Not much time left for the auditions- near the grounds would be perfect!’ James declared to Josh while having their breakfast on the Sunday morning, two weeks prior to the audition.

James and Josh finished their food and started off into the grounds directly from the house huts. They went past the Starword town buildings, the lake and anywhere near the castle and huts.

They found a perfect location at the south-west borders of the castle where no one could disturb them. They began their practice by the stunning spell.

They practised the whole day for the stunning and the knockout spells.

James had landed his first successful knockout spell on Josh when the sun dawned. He had to carry Josh using the levitation spells to their common rooms until he dropped him off there and used some wakening potion on him and went to dinner.

They both sneaked out on Wednesday for their spells practice again. In this session: Josh finally mastered the knockout spell (UKUINTO!) and James had almost managed to use the blocking spell.

They both did it almost every two days until they were out of spells to practice.

Josh wanted to learn more as he thought twenty three spells weren't enough so he and James had planned to skip their Human Studies again this Tuesday so they could practise more in the library.

They were about to go to the library after their lunch when a disaster struck them. A list of all students with their batch number was tied along the entrance of every Hut.

'WE ARE IN THE SECOND BATCH!' Josh exclaimed furiously and almost fearfully. They had their last Defensary Arts lecture of the month on this Thursday, exactly two days before the Spellora audition.

'What if something happens to us just before the audition?' James called out with Josh.

'I really don't wanna miss the audition now- after all the effort which went into it'

Thursday was already here and the only lectures James and his batch had were Defensary Arts for straight three hours after their breakfast and before their lunch.

James and Josh had left taking all the only necessary items: their activators and left their huts. They were greeted by a surprise when they saw two more people from each house joining them.

They all traveled to their deserted classroom where everyone started talking.

Later Mason entered the situation to handle it. Everything went quiet again except for an Amethyst house boy and a girl started to tease and irritate Mason. They weren't listening to what he was trying to say and poked him all over, running round him.

'STOP! STOP!' Mason yelled as he tried to shove them away.

'Or what?' the boy said who was now pushing Mason away. Mason grabbed his hand and pointed his index finger of his other hand towards the boy as a threat.

'YOU ARE DEAD!' the boy said in all his might pushing Mason very hard.

James had caught Mason just in time to save him from falling over when he heard a thundering voice coming from the corridor.

'NAVEREN AVORSA!' shouted Professor Aera who was now hurrying in towards the boy.

Professor Aera caught the boy by his collar, lifted him into the air and threw him far away.

'YOUR PARENTS ARE NOT A FACTOR OF MY MATTER!' he shouted while sitting on his armchair.

Everyone was sitting now except for Naveren, who was standing beside Professor Aera after Mason had left thanking Professor Aera for helping him.

James had always thought of Professor Aera as a sweet guy but he now started seeing him as a ruthless old man with no respect for kindness.

'Everyone shall practise in groups on these- wait- AMAERO!' he said as three statues of fake wooden people erupted from the ground in each corner of the large classroom.

'Practise on them'

He started on the first group by making them hold their hand properly and angle the spell correctly. No one made it on their first try except for Naveren who managed to do it with ease.

Everytime the statue got hit successfully, it fell to the ground and disappeared while another one in place of it grew from the ground beneath.

He made the students go who had already mastered the spell and continued with others until everyone was gone in the first group. James and Josh were in the second group who all were sitting on the tables along with the third group.

Professor Aera came to the second statue as the first one fell to the ground and did not erupt again.

'Come on, second batch- alphabetically'

James was fourth, followed by Josh. He saw the students before him Master the spell and tried the hand arrangement while in the line but did not repeat the spell for it to work.

The first two students managed it on their twelfth try while James and the people behind were tired standing. James somehow knew that he had been standing for at least an hour.

Finally- James got his position in front and Professor Aera made him position his wand in the left hand while doing the hand pose from the right hand simultaneously.

James stretched his wand towards the statue and yelled the words 'KRUTOS!'.

A white beam of light erupted from his wand and as it hit the statue: it spread through the classroom. He wasn't able to see anything and heard gasps from people behind as Professor Aera backed off. James could hardly make out what was going through the rough silvers for minutes.

The white light started to disappear but still the blinding light had made James' eyesight blurry. He started rubbing his eyes and when it finally got into focus again he heard Professor Aera cheer 'EXCELLENT!' while moving closer and patted James' back.

'I have never seen such a powerful Krutos being casted' Professor Aera continued while still patting James' back.

Everyone had started clapping and James felt it again: the infinite pleasure which should have lasted forever but everyone stopped after a while and James felt the same sadness again.

'James you may move on- Josh, please come in'

The two days passed very slowly, the slowest days ever in James' life. He had to sit through all four lectures before Saturday arrived. James couldn't stop going to the library and getting more information while Josh practised outside.

'Well- don't you ever have issues with your stick- like- its the alone activator of its kind'

'NO- It is great- did you know that it belonged to the first Sorcerer and he gifted it to our school and it chose nobody and finally this year it chose me!' James said, hurrying because he had kept it quiet through the situation for a long time and couldn't stop it anymore.

A mixture of kind happiness and jealousy dawned on Josh as he heard the news. 'Well good for you- I'm jealous' he added sarcastically.

On the Saturday morning James woke up early and found that everyone had done the same and were already ready for the audition even though it was after their lunch.

‘Can’t wait!’ An excited Josh said.

James did the final bit of spells which were remaining on his page and after that he returned to his room to count the total number of spells he had learnt so far to check if those would be enough.

He had learnt fifty one spells so far for the competition and thought that he had learnt a bit too many variants for the same spell.

After lunch, James, Josh and almost the entire house of their age got to the seventeenth block where the auditions were gonna be. The place was a huge hall, even bigger than the Hall of Stairs, decorated with Owls, Dragons, Unicorns and Griffins.

All the house students had gathered to the giant entrance blocked by the four house heads. James along with everyone started to try and see what was inside.

At the center was a table with Professor Scarlet, Professor Aera and Professor Harris along with their principal: the book.

They were all sitting on the high ground with carpet dressing moving forward.

The Roselia house leader demanded everyone to stand in a line and explained how they will go inside once each turn.

‘...then you must show the best you’ve got and then exit from the portal stationed behind the judges- Don’t worry about the scores and who will get selected, it will be announced soon’ he added when an Amethyst boy asked from the crowd.

Everyone was sorted into the lines according to their first letter and had started to go inside the hall. James tried looking into the hall using his taller height than the others but did only manage to see what he already had seen.

The line got shorter much faster than what James had expected. He saw people using stunning spells, knockout spells and more on the small animal they bought. James still didn’t know what was coming and had already revised all the important spells twice in his mind.

The line shortened and James was at the very front in the line ALREADY. The nervousness was piling up and he almost had a mental breakdown before the house head moved aside and let James through.

James walked in towards all the professors, onto the red carpet and saw a bright orange burning portal just behind the judges which opened at the open grounds on the other side.

'Start- Show us the best you have got' Professor Aera stated as he wrote something on his sheet of paper.

'W- what?' James barely whispered.

'Perform any spell' Professor Harris commanded, rudely.

James got his wand ready in his left hand, raised it and pointed his fingers to his right hand and whispered '*Amearo*'. Professor Aera's face filled with delight as he knew what James was about to do.

James did a particular gesture with his right hand and pointed it at the statue as he whispered '*Krutos*'. A blinding flash erupted from his wand and hit the statue.

The light this time wasn't bright enough to blind them but it did block their vision for a couple of seconds before it became clear and James saw the burned statue on the ground and the impressed looks on the judges' faces except for Professor Harris.

'Thank you for your amazing presentation- we will grade you accordingly, so now you can leave' Professor Scarlet ordered.

James left as soon as the professors started to note something down on their sheets.

Just after a couple of hours, once again Mason jumped into the room and informed everyone that the Starword town is officially open for students also and there they can find their results of the Spellora audition in the cafeteria.

James, Josh and almost their entire house was ready to leave for the town for the very first time and left once they got ready.

James was all ready: he again knew that he had no chance of even getting selected for the first round so he just got his Order card and left. The town was not so far from their huts.

When James and Josh had lazily walked up towards the town: they started to see a large crowd of people from all ages gathered around just a single building. 'This must be the cafeteria' James thought aloud.

Both hurried to see what was happening, carving through the layers of students they finally reached the end where it had the list hanging for all the three different years.

James got and saw who was selected in the first rounds and saw Josh Miller along with Ravora Mishten from the Verdant house; Naveren Avorsa, Sophie Angeline from Amethyst House; Ravina Oman and Ovola Coriono from

Roselia House and Jack Jackson along with Robert Ranviers from Midnight were selected for the first round from their respective houses.

James was feeling happy for Josh but sad for himself and then his eyes fell upon the last part of the list called a 'Note' at the end of the page which read:

Note

Special arrangements have been made for this year, for first year Verdant House: James Taylor has directly been sent up to the finals of spell-matching in the auditions.

James' heart filled with joy and he immediately wanted to inform Josh about this and again made his way back out of the crowd where he saw Josh talking to other people in the same year.

'Josh- Did you read that note?' James asked while pulling him back from the crowd again.

'YES- I am really jealous BUT CAN YOU BELIVE I GOT SELECTED!' Josh added sarcastically.

The first round of Spell-Matching was held tomorrow between Josh and Ravora Mishten, the best handi-arts students in their batch. Josh was feeling nervous and had started to go more often than ever to the grounds to practice his spells.

'Can you believe it?' Josh asked when they were returning to the castle this evening after Josh had finally managed to learn the levitation spell ('LAVERO!').

'Well- you have your matches tomorrow, again after lunch- are you ready?' James asked while reading the participation sheet.

Chapter 6

Spellora Champion

Again, the next day, Josh woke up early before everyone else and went to practice the last few spells he hadn't done yet.

James was really disappointed to see Josh leave early without him and only saw him when they both were at the lunch table.

'YOU- left me and went alone' James stated while having his food, trying not to look at Josh.

'Look I had to do some "Important Work" and then finish my work before everyone else- you know that today's my Spell-Matching?'

Both of them finished their lunch, dropped their plates and left for the Spell Matching hall in the seventeenth block, exactly opposite of the audition hall.

The doors were open and James and Josh were again too early for the show to start. James sat in the first row with Josh who was all silent and didn't speak until students started to fill in.

Josh suddenly took a deep breath which looked as if to change him completely and he went all cheerful again. 'Looks like I am all ready- not over ready, am I?'

Finally, the same three teachers filled in (with professor Aiden) with Professor Scarlet at last, carrying the book, carefully towards the Judge's tables.

'Josh Miller and Ravora Mishten, please come front with your respective activators and start the opening ceremony' Professor Aiden commanded.

Josh got up from his seat and stood in front of the Judges and he was grinning with all his might. He was then followed by Ravora Mishten and they both backed up and got their positions.

Josh was at the right side while Ravora was at the left. Both took ten steps back and stopped before hitting the wall.

'Waruendowrum' Professor Scarlet shouted while outstretching her hands. Slowly the walls of the hall started disappearing and they all were in an open ground.

One boy at the other end tried to get his seat forward but he immediately hit an invisible wall and stumbled.

'After we begin- one who manages to get hit the least wins this round' she explained.

Josh waived his right hand and tried to use the stunning spell on Ravora but he missed and Ravora disappeared.

He wasn't visible for seconds as Josh got more alert but still maintained the grin on his face. Ravora suddenly leapt forward and pushed Josh back as he fell to his knees.

Josh tried getting up but was hit by a stunning spell and then the levitation spell: making him soar into the air and Ravora then threw Josh away. Josh now hanged on a tree with no help.

Then he did something that James couldn't imagine doing. He used the levitation spell and flew past, avoiding all the various kinds of spells from Ravora in mid-air.

Then Josh gathered his both arms and stretched them while using the stunning spell but the incantation didn't quite match the one James had learned earlier but it worked and Ravora fell to the ground, motionless.

It was Josh's chance, he started firing stunning spell after stunning spell until he was tired and finally Ravora got up charged and attacked Josh in the face.

Josh slowly lost his balance and fell to the ground and Ravora himself started to fire one after another stunning spell but just after two hits the bell rang and the ground dissolved back into the hall.

'WELL DONE JOSH MILLER!' Professor Aera shouted as the hall started applauding for Josh.

Ravora had a very dull and disappointed but almost scared look- James was familiar with it, the same thing he felt when he finally had realized that his parents were gone.

Instead of going towards Josh and congratulating him, he got to Ravora, who was not trying to get out of the hall, unnoticed.

'Life makes you face such situations- don't despise them! I have gone through worse but look where I am now!' James reassured Ravora with a weird enthusiasm.

'Thanks, James' Ravora muttered.

James had left Ravora after a very heartwarming speech and went to Josh near whom all the people had started to leave.

'That was amazing' James congratulated him. 'And- and how did you just changed suddenly? from like sad to very confident and happy'

'I guess it's the time to tell you' Josh sighed. 'I have been working on some of the very useful potions I and Rose found that day on the cruise. We managed to make many of them and the Bevolteritum is one of it'

'Bonto-meter?'

‘Bevolteritum- it’s the confidence booster- well, we have made many other candies out of potions and food- I used a chocolate coated cream pie to use it on me’

James and Josh had no interest in the other house’s Spell-Matching and didn’t visit the other two events after an hour.

The results of these matchings were going to be released soon like earlier, near the Cafeteria.

In the evening, when all the matchings were over, James and Josh left to see the result.

This time, the crowd near the cafeteria was much less compared to earlier. Josh had already made out what was on that sheet and ran towards it- pointed his finger and ran back and forth before stopping near James again.

‘I- I AM SELECTED!’ he yelled as he was jumping back and forth and was shaking with excitement.

Suddenly it clicked into James’ mind, he calmed Josh down and pulled him over but Josh didn’t stop until James had to push him back to get his full attention.

‘Did- you realize-’ James said seriously, listening to which Josh became more attentive. ‘We- we are against each-other’

Both James and Josh were filled with amusement, sadness and excitement at the news.

James still hadn’t come to terms with the fact that one of them has to defeat his other best friend to move ahead to reach Spellora while Josh could only care less about it.

He termed this as a friendly challenge and at least one of them would be representing their house.

Their next and final Spell-Matching was this Monday. James was all scared to face Josh- he can’t use his best spell: Krutos, which he wasn’t even gonna use. But, Josh was all chilled out due to his last victory and didn’t see a need to practice more.

James spent all his evening finding new spells which weren’t as harmful but also were functional. He wrote them all to practice tomorrow morning, waking up early as the finale was just after breakfast.

James had slept early and woke up early to practice. He went down to their usual location and didn’t carry Josh as he thought Josh wasn’t the most important thing at the time.

James managed to learn enough spam spells to be done with it for now and went for breakfast as soon as the cracker alarm set by him went on.

The breakfast was nothing special but just after that, Mason arrived to gather the first years up and lead them to the lake area as the finals were going to be conducted there.

James had been ignoring Josh completely while Josh also did so to keep this match equal and when their names were announced, it was a very crucial movement in James' life.

He had valued relations above all since his great loss and didn't want to lose another friend.

He got up and stood at the position allotted- to the right and got his wand ready while Josh comforted himself with his watch and got ready. Both raised their hands as the first years behind were cheering.

James wasn't trying to know for whom they were cheering, he was just too focused on not hurting Josh.

Josh had already fired a stunning spell and it hit the not so ready James. Another knockout spell was about to hit James when he dodged it and then one more stunning spell came running but was blocked by James' blocking spell (Yuvuru!).

It was James' time as Josh was caught off guard and he attacked a drizz spell which made people dizzy and tired.

Josh was hit and just seconds later, he was walking like mad and trying to aim his hand properly.

James used a knockout spell to make Josh completely unconscious but even before using it, Josh fell to the ground.

James was ready, he used all kinds of spam spells he could use at the movements without causing any harm before Josh had started rubbing his eyes and had got up.

He was about to get to his senses and attack when the loud bell rang, making James feel happier.

This time all the four Judges stood up and clapped for James as he was running towards Josh to help him.

'James has done it' Professor Scarlet cheered as the audience started clapping. 'He is the one selected for the Verdant house First Year Spellora competition!'

James felt the same happiness again but this time with a little guilt in his heart which wasn't letting him enjoy his victory- he had done the unimaginable: a boy who had no idea of magic had become the face of magic for the students studying with him.

A stretcher was brought in to get Josh and left in the direction of Starword town.

At the dinner time Josh told James something very interesting ‘... there recently have been a lot of bullying cases- remember Mason, who got bullied by that Roveren boy, same, but worse. I’ve heard Professor Scarlet talking to Professor Harris talking that the third years are stunning and even torturing others, even some first years are doubted doing it- be carefull.’

James knew how serious this was but he couldn’t care less BECAUSE- HE- WAS- THE- VERDANT- CHAMPION!

Wednesday was soon there as the other house finales were done and one from each year and each House were selected.

All the classes until Wednesday were cancelled to conduct the Spell-Matchings. James and Josh went to see who was selected from each house in their year.

In Verdant house, James himself was selected to represent his house in the competition. In Midnight house, surprisingly, Robert Ranvier won (‘He doesn’t even know how to position your hands!’). From Amethyst house, Sophie Angeline and Ovola Coriono from Roselia house.

At seven, James was called out by Mason out of the hut, alone and found that all the selected students were present with their house leaders. There were a total of sixteen people standing in the centre of house huts, waiting for anything to happen.

James’ and Robert’s eyes meet as they give each other a good-luck head shake.

Slowly four teachers entered the grounds: Professor Scarlet, Professor Aera, Professor Aiden and Professor Harris.

Verdant students were commanded to go and stand near Professor Scarlet, Midnight students to Professor Aera, Amethyst students to Professor Harris and Roselia students to Professor Aiden.

‘You all get ready, we will begin the ceremony by your introduction where you have to give a small speech and then head to the champion table on the right...’

James had to stand first before the magical curtain fell revealing this year’s champions and he wasn’t too happy about it- he had always liked to be unnoticed by anybody.

He could already hear the crowd in the hall he had never seen grow and before he could ready himself and practice his script for the thirteenth time: the curtains started to fall.

It was a marvelous sight, many circle tables were arranged with candles at centre. A teacher's long table was kept right beside them with an elevated speaking booth and the entire hall was very brightly lit up with some flying creatures.

'...are here to represent their particular houses' James heard Professor Aera say while the hall broke into applause. James felt it again: the very strange and happy feeling which he wished to last forever but ended as soon as the applause died off.

'Sophie Angelina, would you please come up here and share your feelings for being the representative of your house' Professor Scarlet asked politely when Professor Aera was watching Sophie with a great dislike.

James suddenly remembered: Sophie Angelina was the same girl who had helped Naveren Avorsa to bully Mason.

She had already walked up to the booth while waving as a celebrity towards the Amethyst students who were passionately looking at her.

'I knew I always deserved this place- I got here from pure "Talent" and not by past history' she added while glancing at James.

'I am- am really happy to be here- I promise to make my house proud and to prove who I can really be' Robert said with almost a tear in his eyes.

It was James' turn next in the line. He could feel all the nervousness building up and all the chattering dying off. 'I- I am really h- happy to be here and would thank for the teachers who taught me...'

Now he could properly hear as he saw that all the teachers were looking at him happily. '... and the books- which rose my interest in the subject and encouraged me to learn more- thank you everyone for listening'

He was later commanded to join his friends in the feast. James got to Josh's table where he had saved a seat for him. He was sitting with Rose and Ava along with a small boy.

'Again- real jealous- well you can tap whatever you like to eat and get it right away' Josh added playfully.

James got one of the golden cards on the table and started looking at it before selecting his dish: some pudding and then tapping on the names and then suddenly a pudding popped out of the table.

'Look, I 'old ya'

After the feast, Josh and James were departing while talking about how James had chances to win this year's Spellora Competition when suddenly Professor Aiden walked in from the opposite corridor.

He had a very sad and tired look on his face which was very new for James to see as ever since he saw him in the fair, he never saw him being this sad.

'Well- Josh, you need to come with me. You have a special message from- uhh- James, please'

James had understood what he meant and left them alone before going to sleep.

Chapter 7

Mystifying Ava

The next day, James had gone to see Josh but didn't find him sleeping in his room like usual and even after looking everywhere possible: he was missing and then James had to get to Aiden's room to ask where Josh went.

'Where is Josh?' James started abruptly just as Aiden opened the door.

'I- umm- I actually don't know. I left him till your hut yesterday' Aiden replied who still was drowsy.

'What did you tell him that he went missing?' James asked, trying to keep his voice normal.

'I can't tell you without his permission' Aiden replied. 'And just don't force him to do anything- give him time'

Aiden had already slammed the door on James' face as James was just trying to find the meaning of what Aiden had just said.

James had returned to his common room where he found Ava with Rose trying to brew some kind of potion.

'What are you doing here' James asked immediately after Rose's sight. 'I thought that we couldn't exchange huts?'

'Well you actually can but only if you need to- and here I needed to get some help in the Divisionary Potion' Rose replied in a breath.

'And why are you roaming the castle grounds- you didn't even attend the Human Studies class?' Ava asked.

'Well- I can't find Josh and haven't seen him since-'

'Josh- he was with me after the first lecture and then he left and I came here' Rose stated.

James immediately left to find Josh in the Roselia House hut which was just beside the Amethyst House Hut. It was a red, wooden entrance with roses decorated- it was the fanciest house hut among all.

James went throughout the house and also checked Rose's common room but did not find Josh. James felt really weird- as if he had returned back in time four years before just after his parents went missing.

He was half-way through the space between Midnight and Verdant huts when he saw a short figure curled up and looking down. James advanced towards it and found him wearing the Verdant house clothes.

James tapped on the student's shoulder- he turned and it was JOSH!

‘Where have you been? I was looking for you for HOURS- what’s up with you?’ James added when he finally noticed that Josh had his eyes covered in tears.

‘I- I’ Josh sobed. ‘Nothing. It’s d- dinner time, lets g- go’

Josh had started to act weirdly ever since James found him crying and whenever James tried to ask why he was crying that night: he turned the topic away but James was careful enough not to ask him what “Special Message” he got from Aiden that night.

‘Josh’ James called upon him when they were having their breakfast.

‘Umm... I’m asking you again: why were you crying a month ago?’

‘I- uhh...’ Josh hesitated. ‘Hey- you’ve been selected for Spellora, haven’t you? We might practice today- remember it’s a Sunday?’

‘Huhhh...’ James sighed. ‘OK, we will but after lunch- I have something to get done’

‘What? Can I help you?’

‘I- uhh... am going to- you wouldn’t like the company but you can still work on your ‘Important Stuff’ because I would really need one of those calm toffees or whatever you call them’

James had planned to learn the Divisionary Potion with Ava, who still didn’t like Josh as much.

After breakfast, after James saw Josh leave the hut, he went to Ava’s room and knocked.

‘Come in, come in- I was hoping you’ Ava added while closing the door up. ‘Want something to eat before starting work on that potion?’

‘I didn’t knew that you could cook’

‘Well I can’t but I still know how to use magic, don’t I?’ she replied as she touched the metal rim of her glasses and said ‘*Exotioss*’. A large plate popped up in mid air as Ava swished her hand and it landed it on the bed beside.

‘I didn’t know you could use the spells which aren’t even taught here?’ James said while having a piece of cake.

James had opened his glass bottle and Ava had her Divisionary Potion up.

‘Where did you learn that potion so well?’ James asked. ‘It’s pretty hard, I heard’

‘My father- he had a copy of Potions with Moodskeeper with him and then he gave it to me’ she said while adding some green potion into James’ bottle.

James attentively followed Ava's orders and added and mixed materials while also occasionally having a bite or two of the Blackforest cake. After two hours of working James had finally made his potion to look purple with golden bubbles just like Ava's and prepared to depart as he had planned practice with Josh.

After lunch, where Josh was almost absent minded, his new usual: who was looking very sad (Also new usual).

'Should we leave?' Josh asked when both went to discard their plates away.

'Sure!' James said dully as he was feeling very invested in why Josh was behaving such for the last few days.

Both of them walked out of their hut and passed the castle behind when Josh stumbled upon a small rock.

OUCH

'Are you OK?' James asked while running back a few steps to help Josh get up.

'No, nothing' Josh sighed while getting up. A sudden silence hit the two when they both heard some people speaking in a hushed voice.

'It's up here?... shhhh... get up- quick'

James looked around to find the source of the voice when he spotted an oddly specific figure of an adult with a pointed and long hat, holding a stick which resembled James' activator: his wand. James got more alert on this discovery and gestured to Josh to stay put.

James suddenly started crawling through the fallen leaves while making the least noise possible but the man was quick and started running into the third block entrance- James had already picked up speed, he was running as fast as he could but then he heard '*Vishesanta*'.

The pointed hat man disappeared into thin air as Josh got up to James. 'Who was that?' he asked.

'I- I dont know but I saw him a year ago on Jerkin Street...' James said while again walking to their destination. '... but back then he had a long beard and now he was shaved?'

'He could only be a...' Josh realized. 'Wizard! The appearance and the WAND!'

'We should inform the professor about this- quick!'

They were already at their usual corner. James was about to start running when he saw another figure but this time on the ground. He furthered on the figure carefully as he stretched his wand out.

It had long hairs- It was AVA!

‘What’s she doing here?’

‘Anything but having FUN- can’t you see, she is fainted! Call any professor! RIGHT NOW!’ James said while examining her.

‘KNEW IT!’ A thundering voice clashed from behind. It was Professor Harris standing behind them, clapping.

‘Knew it would be you two- the moment Professor Scarlet told me’ he said while moving so close to James that he could feel his breath. ‘What have you done to her?’

‘We-’ Josh started.

‘Bullies like you make the school an unsafe place! What have you done!’ Professor Harris interrupted.

‘I- We didn’t do-’ Josh began.

‘Shameless people. Finally I can get you out of here. WHAT- DID- YOU- DO?’

‘WE DID NOTH-’

‘Shouting at a teacher? OK, I don’t even need to hear anything now- the headmaster will take care of you!’

James and Josh had to walk back from the ground with Professor Harris, who used a levitation spell to lift Ava. Professor Harris made James and Josh wait at the seventeenth block while he delivered Ava “safely” to the hospital area.

They both waited there, Josh tapping his fingers to the wall and James chewing his nails. They both didn’t talk until Josh finally looked at James.

‘Why are you nervous?’ Josh asked, talking normally.

‘We are stuck here... for the worst’ James barely spoke.

‘Why should we be scared? We have done nothing- we haven’t been bullying her, she was lying there before we even came’ Josh said confidently standing firmly in front of James.

‘JAMES TAYLOR AND JOSH MILLER’ Professor Scarlet came thundering from the staircase followed by Professor Harris. James almost gave a shudder and Josh flinched around when the confident look on his face gone.

‘Is what I have heard, true? If it is, then you’re in big trouble! Explain yourself’

‘Professor we- we were just having a stroll around the edge where we found her even befo- before we arrived’ James said, occasionally stuttering by the look of disbelief on Professor Scarlet’s face.

‘So you both are claiming to have said that you found her unconscious and didn’t actually bully her?’

‘Yes, Professor’ Josh replied, rather dully.

‘Are they both saying that they were at the very edge of the castle where no one goes in the middle of day and actually found someone!’ Professor Harris argued.

‘Well that's true. What were you both doing in that part of the school?’

‘It is our usual place where we practiced for Spellora, no one would disturb us there and we were there because James needed some practise- he doesn't know anything about the rules and I thought of teaching him something at least before I go’

What did Josh mean by ‘before I go’? Where was he going? but it isn't the time to ask such.

‘Listening to your case, which is very weak, I have decided to do further investigation for if you had been in the previous bullying accord and then you will be suspended’

James couldn't believe his ears: he was going to be suspended from Starword in his very first year for a thing which he didn't even do. He can't stop but feel a grudge towards Professor Harris who had a malicious smile on his twisted face.

Everyone stood there in silence before Professor Scarlet followed by Professor Harris started leaving by the first staircase but were suddenly stopped by the sound of someone running from the second staircase at the other end.

It was Rose who came running over the block and ran right past James and Josh. She stopped before Professor Scarlet. Rose took a pause as she bent on her knees for air while Professor Scarlet helped her regain her breath.

‘Ava is back t- to her senses again’ Rose said, standing up straight. ‘And she said she has something important to say to you- *cough- cough-* she is calling you right now’

Professor Scarlet followed by Professor Harris and Rose started pacing down from the second staircase with whom Josh followed and finally James did the same.

They went down one floor after another, took the third staircase and went down for another five floors. James was already exhausted so did Josh and Rose but all still kept up with the still energetic Professor Scarlet.

At right then the fourth room to the first staircase and out into the sixth block then they took their fourteenth classroom and from their the spiral staircase directly led to the hall of stairs.

They finally reached the end of the castle where Professor Scarlet took a break.

‘Huge relief!’ Josh sighed while regaining his breath with everyone else. ‘Such a long way she took, she might have just taken the flying stairs. Only if we knew where the hospital was then we would have directly been there’

After a few seconds Professor Scarlet walked out from the front gate into the setting sun followed by everyone else.

By the time they passed the house huts: they got very curious looks from the students watching them. Ignoring the students, as they passed the castle itself, they took a left turn.

A wooden sign appeared saying ‘Starword Town Extension’. This place had only two buildings with a red and another one was white with red plus on the sign board reading ‘Starword Utility Hospital for Students’.

Finally they walked into the room and found Ava lying on the first bed with a blood strap which connected nowhere on her left hand.

‘Professor when I was on the ground, I saw weird-’ Ava started weakly but was cut off by Professor Harris.

‘BOYS- these boys’ he said while pointing at James and Josh. ‘They bullied you? tell us the truth’

‘No’ she sighed while trying to get up. ‘They did nothing’

‘Look we told you’ James broke out with happiness but Josh didn’t quite seem pleased.

‘Can you please explain why you fainted at the edge of the school where these kind people found you?’ Professor Scarlet said while kindly looking at the boys.

‘I was looking for them around there’ she said, upright. ‘When I reached there, I saw a man with a wizard’s hat’

Everyone’s expression hardened on the mention of the word ‘Wizard’ and Professor Scarlet looked more stern and serious than ever. Josh and Rose gritted their teeth.

‘He was not alone but he was moving into the castle and...’ she paused to remember. ‘Yes- and he wasn’t alone. I sneaked around them but the taller one spotted and then it all went black and I am here’

‘Yes we also spotted them on our way their’ Josh added while James nodded in agreement.

Silence fell over them while Professor Scarlet was thinking and asked ‘Pardon please, where did you say they were going through?’

‘Through the third block entrance’ James said, confidently.

Disbelief fell over Professor Scarlet and a few moments later it captured Professor Harris, too.

‘Add more gaurd and check the vault on the third block for the book! RIGHT NOW’ Professor Scarlet shouted at Professor Harris.

Both rushed out of the hospital area and disappeared soon.

‘What do you think about some WIZARDS coming in our Sorcery school?’ Josh asked Rose.

‘Don’t know but they all are really angry’ Rose replied.

‘Leaving the Wizard-Sorcery aside. It looks something related to the ministry in being held at risk’ James said.

‘Let it be, we are all safe here in Starword’ Ava said, trying to lighten the situation. Everyone starts moving away from the door and closer to Ava’s bed and circling around her.

‘By-the-way, Ava, why were you at the corner of the castle? That also ALONE’ Josh asked.

‘Fainted?’ James continued Josh. ‘You made us stuck here!’

‘Actually, after teaching you potions’ Ava started while pointing her finger towards James. ‘I left to call Rose so that we could wander around. She then told me that Josh has been acting weird recently: silent, dull, shy. And she also told me to get you.

‘I knew I would find you there at your usual place to relax especially after James got selected as the Spellora Champion. I left to get you near the edge before I finished my Lunch as I thought you would already were there. When I was near the boundary, I saw two people- Wizards, appearing in front of me while they both said *Viches-Santa*. They saw me and the older one got scared while the younger one pointed his stick- no- that wand towards me and shot me with a red beam. Then I remember being here’

‘Well, that was a long story!’ Josh said in an undertone.

‘Hey, Josh’ Rose pointed. ‘as Ava said, you are acting real strange recently’

‘No- nope, nothing like that- I- I didn’t notice any change’ Josh said, thunderstruck.

‘Yeah, I’ve noticed that too’ James added.

‘Me too’ Ava informed.

‘I- I guess I forgot something on hold. I guess I- I should retrieve it real quick’ Josh said while stepping back. He suddenly broke into a run and ran out of the door and soon disappeared.

Many guards had started filling up in the castle ever since that Sunday. The guard near the third block increased and had been prohibited for everyone including teachers.

Josh was also to be seen nowhere, he didn't attend classes nor was he in his room.

James left for his potions class which was being held on open grounds near the boundary of castle as the Potions room in the third block was prohibited.

'Good morning students. You know why we are here today?' Professor Harris asked but no one replied. 'This place has been the reason why we are not allowed to get into our room as the third BLOCK IS PROHIBITED. This all is due to some of our best students : James Taylor, Ava Anderson and Josh Miller. You three, come up on the stage'

James and Ava got up and walked near the higher table where Professor Harris was standing.

'Where is your third monkey? JOSH MILLER'

Nothing happened.

'He has been missing since that Sunday you accused him and James of murdering me which wasn't true' Ava said and everyone started laughing and talking.

'That is not the point. The point is that you three must get a certificate of getting lost from the Principal, shouldn't you?' Professor Harris said.

Everyone stood in silence.

'I have called you three- you two so that you can show me how much you have studied by now or have you just wasted all the time in playing Hide and Seek'

James' face felt warm, his body went numb and his heart started beatboxing. He hadn't studied anything for Potions yet as he really hated Professor Harris and couldn't understand a single thing that he taught. He looked at Ava, who was all chilled out.

'You both have to make a Divisionary Potion' Professor Harris informed. James' face glowed on the words 'Divisionary Potion', that's the potion he studied this Sunday. He knew exactly how to do it.

He moved closer to his table in the class and started looking up for his dragon breath. He then started adding the dragon breath into a measuring flask and then into the tube and then added some dragon poop...

Professor Harris started instructing about the exams which were just after Christmas, while James and Ava made their potions. 'We have already covered our syllabus and it's already November. Only a month for the exams, so study hard...'

After an hour, the bell rang and James was still on the last step : adding caffeine. Professor Harris left the class and advanced towards the first two tables where James and Ava were.

‘Have you finished yet- I want it absolutely perfect or internals cut from your total marks’

‘Yes sir’ both Ava and James said cheerfully.

‘Huhhh... Well if so, then let me check’ Professor Harris said with a look of disbelief on his face.

He picked up the bottle with James’ Divisionary potion and smelled it and then checked on the stuff lying on the table. ‘It is really strong or at least by what it smells’

He then moved on to Ava’s table where everything was all arranged as it was before they started unlike James. ‘Did she even make a potion? She must have, she’s the best in our year’ James thought to himself.

Professor Harris smelled Ava’s potion but without looking into the ingredients, he directly got a small drop onto his hand and whispered ‘*Disintridge*’ on the edge of his palm. At these words, the potion disintegrated into its constituent.

‘You both have done it pretty well’ he said after looking at all the components on his hands with a dull look. Even though James’ potion is a bit stronger, I’ll give it a pass. You both can go’

James and Ava left carrying their bags with them.

‘What does he mean by stronger potion? I agree that your dragon breath was better than mine but I had higher nutrients valued poop and I also added more caffeine’ Ava said angrily while Professor Harris still examined their potions behind.

‘Leave that aside, we have our human studies in twenty minutes and I’m pretty sure we can find Josh there, he never misses Human Studies’

James and Ava crawled up with other students in their house to the sixth floor classroom. James and Ava sat on the first triple bench waiting for Professor Scarlet and possibly Josh.

After a few minutes of continued chattering, Professor Scarlet ran into the room.

‘A thorough search is being conducted through school and being the Vice-Principal, I have to examine every step so this class is going to be handled by our genius: James Taylor. Sorry and thank you for your support’ she said very fastly and stormed off from the classroom.

James sat their idol, trying to consume what he had just made: He is a TEACHER! his lifelong dream.

‘GET UP! GET UP! JAMES, GET UP!’

James finally got to his legs and as soon as he got up, everyone sat silently, waiting for him to speak.

‘So everyone, exams are here and- and I thought you needed some break for your mind so I- I used to play like some digital-’ James started explaining but was immediately cut off by questions.

‘What is digital?’

‘Digital- it is everything humans do on a computer which was explained in the seventh chapter. I am basically talking about video games which relax our mind. They are every experiences you can imagine done in a computer’

‘Like what?’

‘Like fishing, dancing, missions, scenery watching’ James tried to explain.

‘Why do they go to that comp-outer to do that when they can do it in real life?’

‘No, no. That’s the point: it’s an escape from reality for many. Nobody judges you and you are free to do anything, even the things which you actually can’t’

Everyone started laughing and talking with their friends while Ava sat there trying to tell by gestures that he is doing well.

‘Silence please! The next topic, which is actually in your exam : Fiction and Inspiration’ James started while opening the two hundredth and thirty fourth page of their book : The Magnificent World of Humans. ‘Fiction is a very popular thing among Humans as they all like to watch, read or listen to it in the forms of Movies, Books, Podcasts and more.

‘It is created by imagination which doesn't actually exist in real life and doesn't have a huge impact on the real world. Even though modern affairs, especially since 1989, the Movies have started impacting the real life thoughts of Humans. We ourselves have many forms of Fiction, like when we have to make reasons for not getting punished or more.

‘Next topic is Inspiration. Where Fiction exists, there Inspiration thrives. With the growing demand of Fiction, now in 1998, there is very less possibility of originality as everything has been used and everything one can think of is already done by another so that's where Inspiration comes in.

‘Inspiration is basically similarity between two works, let it be Fiction or not. If it is an actual replica with just very little changes, then it falls into the Copied category. But, when it has enough changes in itself then it can be called

inspired by something... Finally, I would like to conclude my knowledge by telling you that you can make your own fiction as a homework for today and remember : Everything starts rough but gains shape at the end. COUGH! COUGH!'

James finally found what he was best at : not Potions, Animals or Anything but Humans and Teaching. Everyone was satisfied with James' style of teaching and wanted more in the end.

James and Ava were in their common room discussing how great the day was : They first proved Professor Harris, their worst teacher, wrong and then James got to become an actual teacher.

'You were just excellent. No stuttering at all' Ava said while completing her homework given by James, himself.

'That was my dream to become a teacher back at Ear- Mid Gaurd'

'I didn't knew your excellence until now even though you had no experience and the knowledge you possess. I knew you were the smartest guy about Humans but this smart' Ava said while scribbling something on her page for the second time : The Protector of Night travelers.

'Yes, staying on Mid Guard for thirteen years did help me learn alot' James said while writing his own title : Catch-i-Mons.

After an hour or two, James finally finished his story about some computeric creatures which took over the world in the future and a boy who would help everyone be free from the creature called Catch-i-Mons.

After a while, Ava did also finish her story about a knight who got his powers from a Sorcering god and has the job to protect the travelers of night and is called the MoonGlade.

They both were too tired to keep working after midnight so they both packed their stuff and were about to go to sleep when James accidentally dropped his Magic Fire Red ink on the carpet.

'Let me help you' Ava said while bending over to pick up the bottle container.

'Let it be. I will do it myself. Good Night' James said while gathering all the ink at once with a spare tissue. Ava went into her room and after a few seconds the light visible from below the door went off in her room.

James gathered as much ink as possible and kept all his stuff inside his room before using '*Ayumpuss*' which made the carpet rotate uncontrollably and spring off all the remaining ink into the bottle container.

James finally finishes everything and turns off the lights of their common room and then he hears the closing of a briefcase. He immediately becomes alert and tries to make everything as silent as possible.

The sound of a cupboard closing a few seconds later is audible and then James notices something he had never noticed after this Sunday : The space below the door of Josh's room was lit up which only meant he was there in his room.

Suddenly, Josh's room's door opened revealing Josh with a big briefcase in his hands.

Chapter 8

Book of Clandestine

Josh was looking pale, clunky and tired; very different from his usual self : excited, energetic and happy-going.

He first closed the lights and then doors without noticing James which was very odd considering that he had a very sharp eye.

‘YOU HERE?’ Josh almost shouted out loud immediately after seeing James. ‘Why aren’t you asleep by now?’

James went straight for it, he hugged Josh. ‘Where were you recently?’ he asked after finally letting go of Josh.

‘I- I was really depressed’ Josh broke off. ‘Ever since Professor Aiden told me that I have to go!’

‘Where? I am not letting my bestfriend go anywhere’ James took a crying Josh and made him relax on the couch. ‘Where are you going. I have never seen you crying until that about Professor Aiden’

‘Y- yeah!’ Josh got himself back and stopped crying. ‘I- I am a strong boy as mom said’

‘Yes... yes. Now, tell me why have you been quite different recently?’

‘James’ Josh gasped. ‘Professor Aiden told me th- that my-y mo-’ Josh had again started crying but louder this time. ‘H-he s-said that my m-mom h-has DIED!’

James felt a cold gust of wind blow through his heart, the same when he realized that his parents were also probably dead. A hot and burning sensation fell through his eyes and slowly walked down his cheeks while he couldn’t believe his own ears : Josh’s very own mom was dead and Josh was gonna suffer the same feeling but all over again.

Both stayed silent until the clock hit twelve and the bird started singing when Josh finally stopped crying and broke the moan.

‘James, I finally know what you went through when you were just ten...’

‘I didn’t want you to realize this way...’ James sighed, still couldn’t see clearly through his moistured eyes. ‘A- and why are you carrying this bag with you? at midnight?’

‘I am leaving James’ Josh declared. ‘I am going far away from here to another country’

‘NO, you can’t’ James yelled while clearing his eyes. ‘You can’t just be going this very moment! You just can’t! I won’t let you go. You’re my best friend! NO!’

‘That’s the reason I’ve been hiding all this from you’ Josh sighed while getting up. ‘I’ll need to go. I have no other choice... Do you think I want to go? NO, I don’t!’

James again tightly hugged Josh. ‘I know what you are going through : Parents dying? Leaving the place you always loved and wouldn’t have to leave but for your own good? I’ve been through all that’ James finally left Josh after finishing his words.

‘Will- you come to leave me atleast till the ship?’ Josh asked, trying to hide his tears while lifting his large suitcase.

Both of them walked through the deserted corridors of the castle.

‘Can you now tell me what happened and how you are here?’ James asked, finally breaking the promise he had made to Professor Aiden.

‘Professor Aiden pulled me back then because he had some news to tell me. My mother had died when some Wizards broke into our house. It was expected, many other Order members’ houses had been raided by wizards at this point but just my family wasn’t ready as my father wasn’t home that night.

‘They killed her and took my father’s work key. He came to know about it when he returned three days later. We just had her funeral the day before yesterday. But, we didn’t even get the time to recover as my father was immediately set off to a different location as a mass virus outbreak occurred there and killed every Order worker there.

‘They are gathering people from around the globe to get and attack the Wizards secretly but we don’t have enough weaponry, so my father is made the incharge of weaponry there’

By the time Josh finished, they were already out from the Hall of Stairs even if they took the long cut.

‘Whe- Where’s Grubbin’ James asked while stepping out of the enormous castle, his tears dried by the chilled winds.

‘He is already on our ship. My father got him there yesterday’ Josh said as James took right which was the way to lake. ‘No, that’s not where I am going from. We are straight’

They both walked straight up to the giant gate which showed a lush green forest on the other side through the small grills. He couldn’t be sailing through forests, can he? James thought to himself.

They were never allowed to go outside the gate and this was the first time James got here and saw the forests that lay beyond. The gate suddenly sprang

into life and opened itself slowly with the rusting cracking on the hinges as it opened and when it finally opened.

It wasn't the clear Jungle anymore but a lot, a lot of fog which made it that it couldn't be seen through.

'Let's go. We are up there' Josh said as James suddenly saw a small yellow light on the horizon.

They both walked forward until the fog disappeared to show a cliff on which they stood and a never ending sea where there lay a small dot which was the source of light. The blades of grass had now vanished into hard black stone on the floor where they stood.

The light slowly the grew bigger and bigger until it became clear what it was. It was a huge cruise with just two people on it, who were looking through the edge. The ship grew bigger and bigger until it reached the cliff and then stopped lazily on the shore. A short ladder was laid on the edge of the cliff where the ship stood.

Josh's father : Mr Henry walked out of the ladder followed by the captain of the ship.

'Josh, here you are my boy' Mr Henry said quitly as he kneeled down for Josh to hug. Josh hugged his father and went back to get his briefcase. 'Here you have your friend, James, I suppose'

Josh and his father started walking up the ladder when Josh suddenly stopped.

James heard him say 'I have one thing thing more to do' before he ran staight back at James and hugged him tight.

'I will leave this for you. You might need it' Josh said while still continuing the hug and then handed an old diary to James in a secretive manner before leaving and returning to his dad.

Josh and his dad walked up the ladder into the ship and the ship started moving away from the cliff. Josh stood on the edge of the ship with his dad while waving bye to James. James stood there until the ship was devoured by the horizon and then turned back to the magnificent castle.

The night went quite miserable considering he wouldn't see one of his best friends for a long time now. 'He didn't even tell me the exact place where he would be' James thought to himself overnight. 'Or else I would have met him this winter'

'WAKE UP! JAMES, WAKE UP!'

James rubbed his eyes and as the world faded in, he saw Ava shaking him awake.

‘James, here you are. How could you sleep so long?’ Ava said while handing him the table clock. James got upright and cleared his watery eyes. IT WAS ALREADY TWELVE FORTY SEVEN!

‘I’ve missed my Human Studies! Was Professor Scarlet there?’ James asked while rampaging down the room to get his supplies.

‘No she hasn’t. James, could you please stop hurrying from here to there?’ Ava said while calming James. ‘It wasn’t held. Every class which was to be held today before lunch has been canceled!’

‘Why? Why would they, in this very important time of EXAMS?’

‘Today Professor Harris came in for breakfast and told us something about the ministry and that every class today before lunch has been canceled’ Ava said reassuringly. ‘I was just worried not to see you around and it is almost the Lunch time so I came in to check on you’

‘OK... OK’

James got ready while Ava got her Plants books ready.

‘Have you seen or heard anything about Josh recently?’ Ava asked while they were moving up for their Lunch.

‘Actually he was at his mother’s funeral from this Monday and has left the school because...

‘... and I was with him to say a goodbye at end’

‘Oh dear lord! It must have been hard for him to undergo such things and for you too, saying bye to your best friend ain’t an easy job’ Ava said while getting her plate followed by James.

‘STUDENTS!’ Professor Scarlet came rushing to interrupt the lunch, she looked more serious and angry than James had ever seen her. ‘Today as your every class before Lunch was canceled, this will continue for the day’

Many students were in awe of having a full day off for no reason but James was really sad because Professor Scarlet was back to teach Human Studies again.

‘An important announcement is to be made and it would not be repeated again so listen carefully’ she said with a sad look on her face. ‘As you may remember : A very secretive item was brought in school by the Order to keep safe this whole year which was kept in the third block called the Book of Clandestine. IT HAS BEEN STOLEN!’

‘A really serious security breach has emerged and everyone’s life is at risk. It was a very important artifact to us, Sorcerers and with it gone we can’t possibly protect ourselves.

‘Following this breach, all classes have been canceled from now on and the exams will be skipped. Don’t worry as it is not gonna matter much because

every first year is going to pass anyway. You will be leaving the school via Zimpi's trains. The first train will arrive the day after tomorrow. Three trains would sum up everything'

'Professor!' A third year jumped. 'Aren't there going to be Spellora Matches being held this twenty-eight?'

'Everything including Spellora, Exams and every other thing you are supposed to do in school premises has been stopped. The tournament will be delayed until next year's March. Once you leave the school, your year 1998-1999 will be over!'

She immediately rushed off to another House Hut and everyone was now left with nothing but empty plates as the Lunch time had already passed and the food had disappeared.

James left feeling sad, he had to skip his first year's Spellora because the Book of Clandestine had disappeared but because of that Professor Scarlet became busy and could not teach, so James got the position.

Could the two wizards, who James spotted a few days ago, have been the reason the book is stolen?

He had now wandered around the castle, thinking about his life. First, he got here and discovered that there existed another Dimension full of fiction. Secondly, he got here at the worst possible time, AT THE BRINK OF AN INTER-MAGE WAR! but found happiness back here. Josh, his best friend gone and now, the "Very Secretive Book of Clandestine" missing.

What could that "Very Secretive Book of Clandestine" mean and why was the Order so secretive and protective about it? A thought suddenly occurred to James : Everything good to him went away with his parents, three years later, a stranger showed up and James finally felt happy again but everything he earned over a year dissolved when his only best friend, Josh left forever and now he was sad again...

Thud!

James had accidently walked into a wandering boy : Robert Ranvier who almost fell into the lake by the bump but only because James caught him in time to save him.

'Thanks' Robert sighed.

'Sorry, my fault' James apologized.

'What are you doing here and where is your partner : Josh Miller?'

'Well... he actually left school for you know- "Sorcerers and Wizards". He had his problems, what about you? Why are you roaming alone? Where are your people' James added when he saw no one around.

‘They- they-’ Robert hesitated.

‘Go on, tell me. I am not Josh, I will not judge you’ James helped him converse better.

‘Well... my friends are going back home’

‘What then? Isn’t everyone?’ James interrupted.

‘Actually they are going back to their home which you know is in Sorcery Empire and my parents. They live in the Wizardry Empire’ Robert explained.

‘Why then are you alone already?’

‘They are all talking about back home and I can’t just stay there and listen because- you know I can’t relate. On the other hand they are my only friends’ Robert stopped.

‘Why? Isn’t there any friend back at your home?’

‘So... as I said, I live in the Wizardry Empire and you know that I’m first of my kind : Wizard born Sorcerer. No one there respects me or even wants to talk to me but here, I feel I belong somewhere. I don’t want to go back’ Robert sighed.

‘What about you parents, don’t you wanna meet them?’

‘No. They are exactly like other wizards who disowned me when they found out that I was a “traitor”. I was with them until I accidentally broke a flower vase using magic at the age of ten and at the time I didn’t have a wand. They gave me to an orphanage where I grew up to be the Wizard born Sorcerer and then I was permanently exported out here’

‘I- I can’t believe what you’ve been through! You parents disowned a kid, god give them shame’ James said while patting Robert on the back.

‘W-what’s a god?’

‘They actually are magical creatures in Non-Mages back on Mid Gaurd. We don’t have them here. Non-Mages worship them for their blessings which are just like magic here’ James explained.

‘I forgot. You were just like me with no parents at the age of ten then you had to leave the place you loved just to get with people of your kind’ Robert stated and his findings did also make a lot of sense to James.

‘You are right bro!’

‘ROBERT! ROBERT! WHERE ARE YOU, ROBERT?’

‘Looks like I need to go. They are calling me’ Robert said before leaving James alone.

James was really full after the dinner, after all this was going to be one of his last meals here.

‘James, I am going back home. I might see you next term’ Ava said while joining James to their common rooms after dinner.

‘Ohh... great. By the way, where do you live?’ James asked her while opening the door to the common room.

‘Sentros city near Juman jungle’

‘That is great. We can meet using the Animolia shop or something, can’t we’ James asked while they both sat down on the sofa.

‘Yes we can use the multi national space oriented shop as means of travel but where do you live for that?’

Something suddenly struck James : He had nowhere to go except for his house back on Earth but he couldn’t go back there, could he? ‘I- I don’t have anywhere to go except for Mid Guard!’

‘But where did you live before you came to school? like there must be somewhere you can go’ Ava said while getting up and tickling her glasses to get ready for magic.

‘I used to rent an alcove room with the help of Jason- wait, I could ask Jason for more time in the cafe or something...’

Ava conjured up a rubik’s cube from thin air while James continued to think.

‘Here, take this’ she gave James the cube.

‘What am I supposed to do with this cube?’ James asked, still worried about where to go.

‘You can just make this-’ she took it back and solved it in such a way that it somewhat resembles an A and then another cube popped up near Ava’s right ear, which she grabbed. ‘You can use this A in this cube to contact me from anywhere’

Her voice came first from her mouth and then the cube in her right hand which echoed for a while.

‘Ummm. OK’ James took the cube and pocketed it.

‘Do you have any plans for this Christmas since school is ending early?’ Ava asked while sitting back.

‘Do you even have Christmas here? Robert was asking me what gods are?’

‘No, we don’t but ever since the Mid Guard culture started to spread, some of us started celebrating some events like Christmas when we plant trees and Santa gives us gifts’ Ava explained. ‘There are more like Holi and Easter and Eid is pretty new, we don’t know what to do on Eid’

‘Huh, we can meet on christmas night and walk free around Juman Jungle since it’s so close to your city’ James said, still anxious of where to live in the first place.

‘OK then, I will call Rose over’

‘Can I call someone from my friends?’ James knew exactly whom to call this time.

‘But Josh has left... yes, you can’

‘I don’t mean Josh but I will call Robert over, he is staying with me’ James said with suddenly an idea flashing onto him : he can use the Order card Jason gave him a year ago to buy Robert and himself a room each.

James had slept early in order to get up early so that he could scavenge his room for stuff and pack them up before they left tomorrow.

He found many new things like Oscar’s old packets of food... his underwear and more old stuff which he brought back when he lived on Jerkin Street like a rotting bottle of some potion which he can’t remember now and a lot of books which he borrowed from the library and never returned.

He had actually started reading about history in the Mage Realm ever since he arrived at the school but most of the things he read were contradicted by the stuff teachers taught him. And now he had a pile of books which lay under his bed for a year now.

James decided to go and return the books today itself before lunch and after packing up. He worked for an hour more after breakfast and finally packed everything from his school books to the Rubik’s Cube Ava gave him yesterday.

After a bit of relaxing he left for the food, where today the teachers were going to reveal by which train each student was going to leave through and stay in for three-quarter of a day.

James went up with Ava, who also had packed up, to the House Hut and sat down to have their lunch.

Once they were finished with the food and had disposed of the plates in their place, Professor Aiden came running in the room with a piece of paper in his hand.

‘So students, the list which contains the order by which you are going to leave the school is in my hands and I am going to read it out loud’ he said. ‘On the first day Ava Anderson, Kiaan Kishore, James Taylor, Josh Miller, Crivana Scents, John Birch, Leonel Ronald and Tyson Merrywood would leave from the first train at six-morning.

‘In the train on the second day, which arrives at twelve noon, Robin Desouza, Hester Pryne, Harry Lawson, Gretchen Helen and Robin Merrywood would leave using the train on the second day.

In the last and third train, which will leave at six-evening, Tsarena Raven, Leo Clast, Hellen Clearwater, Om Mishra and Jeff Stute will be leaving. After these three rides, no train or outgoing expenditure will be arranged so be on time’

Professor Aiden finished and then winced towards James as though saying ‘come out for a second’ and following the order, James left the Hut into the chilly open grounds.

‘Yes, professor’ James said while closing the door of the Hut again.

‘No, don’t call me professor, I am officially not a professor from today so just call me Aiden’ Aiden said. ‘I have talked with Jason and he is saying that you can go back to the cafe or stay at my or his house till the term starts again in the upcoming March’

‘Uhhh... OK’ James thought to himself. ‘I will, but where do you live?’

‘I live near the outskirts of Juman Jungle, near Sentros City- Don’t worry, I will send a guide with you to help navigate’ he added while looking at the puzzled face of James.

‘Why, aren’t you also coming with me on the train?’

‘No. Teachers will be leaving five days before christmas as we have some important work to do and return five after new year, you know, hard life as a teacher’ Aiden said with a shine on his face. ‘I think I must leave now as I have to rearrange my classroom before leaving for christmas holidays- see you later’ he added while departing.

James got all the books using a levitation spell (‘Lavero’) to lift two stacks together while he-himself, carried five in hand. He got to the first library entrance which was at the fifth block and entered it. The library was deserted with no people unlike the last time James visited when everyone was here, trying to find new spells for Spellora Audition.

James deactivated the levitation spell and threw one after another books randomly into air as the books levitated and led themselves to their shelves. ‘I wish I could continue’ James thought when all the books were back on their shelves. ‘It is too fun to miss for another four months’

James left the library and had started descending downwards when he heard some footsteps coming from the staircase between the fifth and sixth block. The footsteps grew louder and louder until they were right behind James on the ground floor.

‘Robert, I was about to look for you’ James said after noticing the person on the stairs.

‘Oh, hello’ Robert said quietly.

‘On which day are you leaving?’

‘Tomorrow’ Robert sighed. ‘And I yet haven’t found where I would go after arriving at the WIZARDRY EMPIRE! Would they even EXCEPT ME?’

‘I don’t know about them but I have found a place for you to live’ James said proudly. ‘You are coming with me in Aiden’s apartment for this break’

James went to have his dinner early, the night before leaving, at twelve from seven because he had to leave early. He had his full dinner before everyone started greeting their friends who were leaving tomorrow.

There were hugs and talking louder than ever in their Hut. Many people like Kiaan Kishore and Crivana Scents even started crying before returning back to their rooms and people like Om Mishra and Jeff Stute, famously known as Terror Twins (by Josh) were making other forcibly cry using magic.

‘I’LL NOT LEAVE YOU’ Robin Desouza went shouting after Om Mishra, who made her face go red while tears covered the floor.

‘Shall we get back to our rooms?’ Ava asked James. ‘Not many friends, huh?’

‘Yeah... What about you? What about Rose?’ James asked.

‘She is deemed to leave on the second train’ Ava told.

James denied as he wanted to see the Hut emptied before he left just as it was on the first day he arrived.

‘That’s silly’ Ava makes fun of James after listening to his plans to stay up late.

‘I know but I am always symmetrical’ James said.

Ava left early, thinking how stupid the idea was but James felt a wiered rush to do it, he didn’t want to lose such a lifetime offer to STAY UP LATE and SEE THE HOUSE HUT EMPTYING!

He wandered around the room, occasionally gesturing bye or thank you while someone left. FINALLY, the hall was emptied.

James was so lucky to see such a sight : A desolate large hall with nothing but tables and banquet. It was dim with no light and only the moonlight entering through the windows.

Chapter 9

Magical Christmas

James woke up early and was really excited for the Magical Christmas and also sad for leaving the school but at least he had three friends join him even on an off school adventure : Ava, Robert and Rose (Who apparently lived very close to Ava).

He patted Oscar in sleep before carefully picking him up and using a levitation spell to carry his bag (Laverio!). He yawned and left his room for the last time before meeting Ava waiting in the common room, rechecking all her stuff, who had also kept her glasses safely back into her bag.

‘We won’t need it on the train’ Ava explained when James asked her about it but he wasn’t going to keep his wand inside, for it was really precious to him and **WHAT IF IT BREAKS UNDER THE FORCE OF LUGGAGE?**

‘Let’s go’ Ava finally said after repacking everything.

They went up through the stairs and into the House Hut where five other students were waiting.

‘Thank the principal for letting me go alone, away from him (Robin Merrywood). The ride would’ve been spoiled if he was with us for **THE ENTIRE DAY!**’ James heard Tyson Merrywood say to his friend : John Birch.

Professor Aiden came walking comfortably around towards them and then said ‘I am going to be coming with you on your first train. Everyone follow me’

Everyone who was in the Hut followed him, leaving the Hut empty again. They walked out into the very chill but no-so-snowy climate in the open grounds which drowned in the heavy fog.

‘It should have snowed by now’ Ava declared. ‘It is much colder at the time... I absolutely love the pink snow...’

They waited there for another ten-fifteen minutes before other house students arrived in the center. Robert came running from the Midnight House students followed by Rose from the Roselia House Hut, who continued to rub her hands.

‘Pretty cold’ Robert asked with a cold throat.

‘Yeah, would guess it’ll be much colder in the Sentros city, wouldn’t it?’ Rose said, finally stopping to rub her hands and putting them very deep inside her red sweater.

'I sure hope so' Ava answered.

'HERE! Follow me' Professor Aiden called them over the crowding following him, leaving them alone standing there.

They walked lower into the grounds before reaching the entrance to Hall of Stairs and in front of the main gate.

'It's three less from six, the train will arrive at any second now' Professor Aiden said.

Some sort of engine whined through air, sinking onto the ground as a large train followed, erupting from clouds and descending to the ground. It landed slowly onto the ground, in front of them. The tail of the train still didn't end, even after the train completely stopped.

The doors which were able to touch the ground opened, revealing an comfy looking compartment.

'Choose whichever you'd prefer but remember that don't go too far, it'll never end' Professor Aiden said letting the dozens of children move in. After a while only four of them were remaining. 'You four, go into the seventh one'

James, Ava, Robert and Rose followed each other into the last compartment on the ground and mounted in. It was a luxurious seating area with two pairs of couches surrounding a fireplace and four sets of doors. Professor Aiden himself jumped into the same compartment before the door slid until closed.

'Professor, why have you come here?' Robert asked while Rose looked as confused as him.

'Every other one is full and this one has some special students' Aiden said. 'You all can go and keep your luggage in the storage and changing rooms, five in total, so I can have my own'

All of them went in on a random basis into one of the five doors and James chose the third one. It was a very small room with a small bunk bed, a small table and a large drawer in the wall where James kept all his stuff. He walked out to find Rose and Aiden already there with Robert walking up to the sofa where Rose sat.

James kept Oscar on the really soft and comfortable rug below and sat down beside Aiden.

'So what've you planned? Anything about where to live?' Aiden asked James.

'Yes, I am going to come to your's to live and...' James hesitated. '...can Robert also come along?'

‘Of course he can. Now you can have a nice company with you for the rest of the time before I come’ Aiden said, rubbing Oscar’s forehead as Oscar purred and slept lazily.

Ava walked out of her room, wearing a sort of night dress instead of her school robes. She sat down just on the other side of James and Aiden along with Robert and Rose.

‘You’ve already changed?’ Rose asked while getting up. ‘I guess I should follow’

She said before leaving her place and going back to her room.

‘How was the year?’ Professor Aiden asked all three of them.

‘Really adventurous’ Ava said. ‘I couldn’t have imagined what I did. My parents never let me go anywhere near a DRAGON or let me brew the POISON at my house or LET ME USE KRUTOS!’

She hicoughed excitedly.

‘It was really fun’ Robert said with a smile on his face as he concentrated on the burning flame. ‘I got to make a lot of friends which was surely a new experience and being with the people I trust...’

‘I know what you’ve gone through before coming here, Robert. I am happy that you found a home’ Aiden said. ‘What about you James, what did you do?’

‘Well, meeting the magic in itself was a surprise, I didn’t even know it existed’ James began. ‘I met new friends, faught DRAGONS! learned new spells and magic, lost my best friend, Josh’

‘You did have the most amazing year here, didn’t you?’ Rose said while sitting down, wearing her night-blue night dress.

‘So Josh did tell you before leaving’ Aiden remarked.

‘What about you, you had some great experiences out of school but what in SCHOOL?’ James asked.

‘You might think that I went through multiple loop holes harder than teaching but trust me, teaching is the hardest thing I have done yet’ Aiden began. ‘First day was filled with marvels, I got the tour of the school from Professor Harris, I found out many new things like did you know that there is a secret room beneath the third Block where the Book of Clandestine was kept safe in there, this year’

‘What is the Book of Clandestine?’ Ava asked, finally looking interested in hearing Aiden.

‘It, well... I can’t tell you much but you need to know that it’s the best weapon against the Wizards’ Aiden began but was immediately stopped by Robert.

‘Why do we need a weapon against them, Professor Aiden?’

‘Of course you don’t know, you’re new here. So, almost two years ago there was a case fought against the wizards when one wizard, Silas Barlowe, killed about seven Humans and twenty-three Sorcerers. For what? To get that book, that book has something really important which those Wizards want and can go to any lengths to get it’ Aiden finally finished.

‘I really don’t want them to get the book after this!’ Robert exclaims with his smile fading off and as he again starts staring right back into the burning flames near him.

‘Don’t you want-’ Ava abruptly stopped when Aiden nudged her in time without Robert looking.

‘So did the Wizards get the book?’ Rose asked, ignoring all the No’s from Aiden.

‘We are pretty sure that some Wizard took the book when you-’ Aiden pointed at Ava. ‘Were found unconscious by James and Josh and as you three claim to have seen Wizards then’

‘Why don’t we register a case against those Wizards in the U.W.S.P.L.?’ Ava asked, deep into thought and started looking into the fire, which was apparently the most interesting thing to her and Robert.

‘What?’ James asked Aiden directly.

‘Oh- U.W.S.P.L means Universal Wizarding and Sorcery Peace Lock’ Aiden explained ‘It is an inter-mage court where the two sides : Wizarding Empire and Sorcery Empire could solve problem within the walls of court and make everything be solved without any war, peacefully.

‘And for that we need solid proof that the Wizards were actually there to steal an important Artifact from us, Sorcerers’

‘They are the proof’ Rose said, pointing at James and Ava.

‘They aren’t going to listen to a gang of fourteen-year olds for a case like that’ Aiden said, now he also began to look into the fire. ‘It could cause the second inter-mage war, which we, Sorcerers have tried to avoid for centuries now’

James was now too intrigued not to look into the fire himself and the moment his eyes settled on the highest burning flame, it felt like everything good in the world was in the fire, it was so peaceful. He couldn’t stop looking into the best thing in the world.

‘Why are you staring into that flame?’ Rose interrupted which ended their trans and were back to normal.

‘It- uhh- it is a Luring Flame’ Aiden explained. ‘They attract the viewer’s eyes and don’t let it move around. It is really comfortable looking into the flame. I guess it is there to make long journeys even more bearable’

THUD!

Robert lay flat on the ground, sleeping.

‘That’s because of the fire, get him up and lead him to his room’ Aiden said before getting up along with James to help wake Robert.

‘Wake up. Wake Up! WAKE UP’ James tried while moving and turning Robert around.

‘Wait’ Aiden said before retreating behind and said something that was really hard to understand but just after the Spell a small cloud appeared on Robert’s face which started raining.

‘Where- Where am I?’ Robert said, getting up from the rug and as the cloud disappeared. The girls started giggling.

‘I guess you should go and sleep in your room rather than lying here aimlessly’ Aiden said. ‘I will also go and have a nice sleep until we reach Sentros City’

All of them moved back to their room including James, who got to his room, closed the lights and lay flat on the first floor of the bunk bed. A few fluorescent stars started shining as James got lost into them and slowly dozed off.

‘SENTROS CITY IN FIFTEEN MINUTES! REPEAT, SENTROS CITY IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!’ the radio shouted in James’ room, which startled him and broke his sleep, who then woke up and turned on the lights.

He again walked out into the central compartment where Aiden, Robert and Ava sat on the sofa near the fireplace while Ava patted Oscar, who her laps purring joyfully.

‘Good evening James. We’ll be right next to Sentros City in minutes’ Aiden wished as James sat down beside him. ‘Moodskeeper was a really good friend of mine. You know, we did a lot of new experiments and found new spells, cures, repairs and more. He really was one of the greatest Mage of all time’

‘How did he die?’ Robert asked, deeply invested in the story.

‘It is unknown how he died but he disappeared sixteen years ago when I was away from our lab. He didn’t even say goodbye’

‘Is Moodskeeper his real name, it can’t be, can it?’ Ava asked.

‘His real name was R-’ he was broken off by the arrival of Rose, who was still yawning.

‘Good Evening Rose’ Aiden wished her along with Ava.

‘TIGHTEN YOUR GRIP! THE TRAIN IS ABOUT TO STOP!’ shouted the speaker.

The train suddenly started zooming around as everyone got hold of their seats while Ava barely caught the screeching Oscar in time on his tail. The only window which was there fell dark as a glass shattered and a few seconds later dim sunlight again started pouring into the room through the window.

The train stopped with a halt as everybody let their grip slide off and as Oscar fell, complaining.

‘FIRST STATION : SENTROS CITY IS HERE! NEXT STOP : JERKIN CITY WILL ARRIVE TWENTY MINUTES AFTER DEPARTURE!’

‘We are here!’ Aiden said, getting up as everyone followed him outside the compartment.

All the other compartments started emptying as James had a doubt. ‘Do they all live here, in Sentros City?’

‘No, of course not. They are getting some break before departure again’ Ava explained.

‘Excellent Ava, I guess you and your friend...’ Aiden pointed at Rose. ‘..shall leave or your parents will be worried as we- James, Robert and I move on to our location’

Ava and Rose departed, walking away after the usual goodbye and James (Holding Oscar, who wanted to go with Ava, roared) along with Robert followed Aiden.

‘Where is your house?’ James asked, struggling to carry Oscar.

‘As I told you, at the edge of the city, near Juman Jungle’ Aiden continued walking while also guiding their flying luggage behind them as they walked.

‘When are you leaving, Professor Aiden? And how did you come along?’ Robert asked.

‘I am leaving after an hour as to why I came here, every teacher is assigned a train to look after and return’ Aiden started ‘I got the first, Harris got the second while Rita got the last one’

After a few solid minutes of walking, they had finally passed the main bright orange house and were on a dirt patch covered by trees.

‘Are we in Juman Jungle already?’ James asked.

‘No, this is artificial’ Aiden replied.

‘Why is this artificial?’ Robert asked.

‘That’s because we, Sorcerer’s have very less places with suitable climate to grow trees unlike those Wizards, who got all the nature stuff with all the main

and powerfull creatures. It get's real hard to breath around sometimes so that's why we, Sorcerers have these open green houses to release Oxygen'

They had now passed the shrubs and were covered by thick trees when James saw a wooden house around the end of the path. He followed Aiden right infront of the house.

'This is my small cottage' Aiden said, pridely thumping his heart.

'Where does that lead' James asked when he saw a very barely visible dirt path with a broken sign.

'It leads to Moodskeeper's house and our research lab. Nobody has been there for years now, don't bother about that, let's get in here' Aiden said while opening the door of the house using magic.

He went in, kept all the luggage in and then welcomed James and Robert in. It was a pretty large living room with three pairs of sofa kept around a rug and followed by a Dentox (Magical Tele-Vision) at the first wall with a passage on the right.

'I have four rooms there so take anyone you like and don't mind the first one, it's mine' Aiden said before using magic again to turn on the lights. 'I'll have some work done in the garden before I leave. Nobody has lived here for some while so some insects may have crept up'

He left the room while James moved around and kept the sleeping Oscar on the sofa and got his own bags levitating again, which waited on the front door, ready to be picked up.

'I'll have the second one' Robert said before lifting his own bags and leaving. James followed along and chose the last room where he found a single bed, study tables and some sitting area with a small fireplace around.

He dropped his bag before he went out and found Robert already watching something on the Dentox and followed him.

After watching the first season of Dragons and Maniacs, James got up while Josh went into his room to freshen up before a night stroll around the city. It was already well past midnight.

When Robert came in after changing up to "fit in" and also after washing his face, Aiden entered, looking exhausted.

'I have done the chore outside for you guys to practice spells and play around but do go too far- where are you leaving?' he added when he saw Robert dressed up.

'We were about to have a little stroll around here to know more about the city' Robert said.

‘Sure, I’ll have some rest before leaving early tomorrow morning’ Aiden said, falling straight onto the sofa in the center. ‘But don’t go too far, NEVER go deep into the Jungle and return within an hour, it’s too late already’

James and Robert both left the house and traced their way out after Robert placed a Jint near the door, under the doorbell.

‘Just in case we get lost- here, keep this with you’ he said while giving an orange band with one button and a stylised box top. ‘just press the button and an arrow will appear which will lead you to that Jint’

The garden was now much cleaner, no fallen leaves and outgrowing shrubs but beautiful lighting with some floating candies which were colored after the christmas colors.

They walked across the trees and the open grounds looking for something interesting but found none until they started to encounter some shops and sometimes orange houses here and there. Most of the shops were closed and the lights inside the houses were dim except for a few.

They walked around examining the shops and looking around the roads. They had now entered the main city, which was decorated with Christmas themed lights and some Christmas trees around here and there.

The only source of light was the brightly shining stars of night, which were so bright indeed that it almost looked like a dim day, and the Christmas lights with some decorations on trees.

There was an unusual amount of stars which got James thinking ‘Is that normal?’

‘What?’

‘That many stars in the night sky? I have never seen more than a few back on Mid Guard, you know’ James continued.

‘Yeah, that’s completely normal, there are even more stars on the Wizard’s side’ Robert said while examining the closest bus.

‘Don’t wizards have buses?’

‘No, most of the Human things aren’t present in the Wizardry Empire. The Sorcerers rely a bit too much on the Human stuff despite having magic with them’ Robert explained. ‘The wizards think that the Human stuff is harmful and can harm their reputation as supremes. They say they don’t want to fall as low as Sorcerers to use them’

They had walked passed the same route via which they had entered the city and decided to turn to the house as it was too late for them to stay up.

Robert suddenly stopped when they were covered with the artificial trees and started sensing something around.

well. 'What happened Robert?' James asked while trying to sense anything as

'Someone's near here' Robert said. 'Someone I recognise just passed! Stay put!'

'Who is here and how do you know?' James asked, alerted.

'I could sense wizards since I was really young' Robert said looking behind trees. 'It was of no use until I was thirteen and came here. I never felt a wizard near me until a few weeks ago in school'

'That was the night I and Josh found Ava unconscious' James said while also looking around for clues. 'I think it's the same person'

'I don't know' Robert replied.

The dry leaves rustled to the left of James as he looked around and found two people running past him. First one and the shorter one wore a pointed and long Wizard's hat and Wand in his hand, followed by the taller one with a book in his hands.

'FOLLOW THEM' James said, running behind him.

'THEY ARE THE WIZARDS' Robert said, following James.

'AS IF I DON'T KNOW!' James was now running right beside the shorter Wizard, who was lacking behind the taller one. 'WHO ARE YOU! WHAT IS THAT?'

'I - I CAN'T!' he said and started catching up with the taller one. It got difficult each second to keep up and after a few seconds, James was merely running but so did the Wizards : They were also slowing down, tired.

'VICHENT! RIGHT NOW!' said the cold, dry and sharp voice of the taller man. '*VICHESENTA!*'

The man disappeared into the air followed by his teammate who yelled the same thing, coughing : '*Vichesenta!*'

James stopped on his knees followed by Robert.

'Again got away,' James said, catching his breath on his knees. 'He always disappears'

'Again? What do you mean by 'he again got away'?, huh?' Robert said, straightening up.

'I saw the same person thrice' James said, standing erect. 'First when I came here for the first month, I saw the taller one but with a longer beard, he disappeared. Then, when Ava was found unconscious, the same pair was sneaking into the third block, and disappeared. And now, they both are back, AGAIN DISAPPEARED!'

They both walked back to the house, discussing what could James finding the same Wizards thrice a year in SORCERY EMPIRE could possibly mean.

‘Could they be following you?’ Robert suggested.

James were woken up early by the hustle made by Aiden, trying to get everything he would need before leaving to school.

‘Where are you going?’ James asked just after he was woken up by the noise, still drowsy.

‘I need to leave around five, the bus will be here in half hour so I’m just leaving early’ Aiden said.

‘Happy journey. When will you return?’ James asked, moving into the living room.

‘I will return two days after tomorrow’ Aiden said, getting his bag around his shoulder. ‘Jason will be here the day after tomorrow, on the day of Christmas. Stay alert, some creatures live in the forest, don’t go inside the Jungle and take care of yourself and Robert’

He opened the front door and James followed him out. The dim rising sunlight covered the sky. But James suddenly noticed something wiered : There are TWO SUNS in the sky!

‘What’s this?’ James said trying to point at the suns but was unable because of the blindining lights.

‘They are Sol and Soleil’ Aiden corrected him. ‘That’s their name’

‘But why are there two here? I never saw more than one even from Jerkin City!’ James asked.

‘Sentros City is known as the Celestial Point. Many wiered thing happen only here like two suns, more brighter stars and time here passes a bit diffrently than everywhere else’ Aiden explained.

‘Why so?’

‘I don’t know but that’s the reason this city is known for great Spell inventors. Every researcher’s first choice it is’ Aiden said, checking his watch. ‘I need to leave or I’ll miss the train’

‘Bye, see you after a few days’ James said as Aiden left and walked away. He slowly disappeared behing the woods.

‘You woke up already?’ Robert said as James entered the house and closed the door. ‘I think Professor Aiden has left’

‘Yes, he just did’

‘Would mind watching the next season of Dragons and Maniacs?’

‘Why shouldn’t I’ James said, sitting right beside Robert to watch the latest season of Dragons and Maniacs.

The days went past as they had nothing more than watching Dentox and wandering around the city. One day James and Robert met Ava and Rose on their expeditures near the heart of the city.

They all had so much to discuss and so did they in a nearby Cafe. Ava told them that she got a new Dentox for this Christmas and her own room while Rose got a Vensuela Dragon.

‘What’s a Vensuela Dragon?’ James asked eagerly.

‘It’s a pet dragon which doesn’t grow too large in size’ Robert explained. ‘They are found in almost every household in the Wizardry Empire’

James told her how they found the same two Wizards again earlier this week and how they saw a book in their hands. In the same meeting they decided to meet on the night of the Christmas eve near Aiden’s house to have a small party before Christmas.

The Christmas eve morning was as chill as ever when James woke up to find Robert already awake. They both walked out to find letters, which was a tradition in Mage Realm on every Christmas eve.

They walked out to find just a single letter addressed to both of them by Aiden, which read :

Hello James and Robert

Early Merry Christmas and I am writting this letter because I will be unable to come tommorrow to celebrate Christmas with you because I have some important work for school. Instead of me, Jason will arrive soon after this letter. Don't worry, I have already decided your gifts and they will be on the way and will arrive tomorrow. I will arrive on 26th, the day after tomorrow.

*Your Best Teacher and Uncle,
Aiden Warlock*

‘I guess you already got the letter then’ said a voice coming from behing the slightly closed door. It was Jason!

‘I was waiting for you, for so long’ James said while opening the door. Jason entered and sat down on the centrall sofa while James and Robert sat on either side on him.

‘You?’ Jason said, looking confuesely towards Robert.

‘Robert- I am Robert Ranvier’ Robert said.

‘Are you the son of Richard Ranvier’ Jason asked.

‘Yes’

‘I absolutely hate him- sorry- I think he is a very bad and underqualified lawyer to serve in U.W.S.P.L. Because of him that Silas Barlowe is walking free. He let out many evils’ Jason said frustratedly.

‘Nice meeting you’ James said, diverting the topic.

‘Oh, yes. Nice meeting you too. I did promise to come and meet you but after that Book of Clandestine got stolen, I had no other option but to lead the search team’ Jason said.

Chapter 10

Trepentius!

James and Robert talked until they could with Jason before the sun was tired and started sinking.

‘I forgot to ask you’ James interrupted Jason, who was explaining how the Order worked under the Sorcery Empire. ‘How do you and Aiden know each other’

‘I and Aiden know each other by the help of Moodskeeper. Aiden and Moodskeeper were friends ever since school and I met Moodskeeper when they both shifted here’ Jason started. ‘We both became friends until your’

Jason had suddenly started coughing vigourously and couldn’t stop nor breathe.

‘I guess it hasn’t wore off yet but lucky you’ Jason finally pointed at James after managing to eradicate his cough. ‘You will finally come to know more about Moodskeeper this Christmas. Moodskeeper or your’

He had again started coughing vigorously with no control over himself.

‘Shall we go around for a walk?’ Robert said while handing Jason some water. ‘Ava and Rose might be waiting’

James, Jason and Robert got to their feet and got themselves ready for the towering snow which had been appearing and disappearing on random occasions.

‘Artificial snow’ Jason explained James when they almost crossed the Artificial trees.

Their expenditure was closed once James saw Ava and Rose chatting near a small grocery shop for some fruits to gift them.

‘Hello’ Jason said. ‘You must be?’

‘She is Ava’ James pointed. ‘and she is Rose. We are classmates and she is in my house’

‘Classmates, huh?’ Jason said sarchastically from James to Ava.

‘Yes’ Robert intercepted their trance in which James was eyeing ‘NO, not now’ to Jason.

They all proceeded to walk after for a while, talking about how the Christmas is going to be this year.

'They have also arranged firemarker or something they bought from the Human market' Rose started when Robert asked about their Christmas plans. 'They say it's fun but I don't know what it is?'

'James might know' Ava said, nudging James.

'The- they' James was caught off guard, who was looking for something around the trees. 'Yes, they are fun. It is just some fire which looks attractive- but isn't very good for Humans and I-'

'Isn't this the place where you told us you found those Wizards?' Ava asked after suddenly stopping to investigate.

'Wizards, where?' Jason asked following Ava's lead. 'Tell me, it is my job to catch those Wizards who stole the Book of Clandestine'

'I and Robert saw them exactly here' James began but fell silent. He had suddenly realised something : The book in that Wizard's hand might just be the Book of Clandestine! 'I think I know what's happening...'

'THEN TELL!' Jason erupted.

'On this place, a few days ago, Robert and I found two Wizards running from here' James explained. 'One of them had an old book in his hands and they suddenly started running once they saw us.'

'I've seen them for the third time now'

'And NOW you are telling ME?' Jason started to hurry around. 'They can't have travelled far, the Order has strict measures taken to stop them. They must be somewhere in the Jungle itself'

'We should find them!' Ava jumped excitedly.

'Yes, but not we- I should find them' Jason said. 'You all go back to Aiden's house for now, I will return before sunrise'

'WE are coming!' James said.

'I can't let YOU come, it's Order business and kids aren't supposed to POKE their nose around in Order matter, do you even know how important this is?' Jason said with a bad mood and high temper.

'I know how important it is' James said. 'I am the one who told you about the Wizards. If not for me- if not for a KID, it wouldn't have been possible to have reached here!'

James has subconsciously matched the level of temper and mood of Jason but it sort of worked : Jason had given up on the temper but still maintained that serious look.

'Come on then! But on your own risk!' Jason said, dangerously.

'I will come along' Ava protested. 'If not for me, the topic wouldn't have raised and you would have never known about the wizards'

'WE TOO' Robert and Rose screamed cheerfully.

‘As you wish’ Jason said, giving up.

All of them decided to walk deeper into the forest on one condition that they, except for Jason, would return if they are unsuccessful before the Christmas night.

As more deeper they went, the silence around them decreased into cheerful voices made by animals which were nowhere to be seen in the dark. The coldness in the air suddenly increased a lot with thick snow falling.

‘You all can still go back or else without any protection every one of us would freeze to death’ Jason declared.

‘It would certainly be interesting to die along with you by freezing’ Ava said, shaking.

The Jungle got denser as the moon above them slowly rose up. The chill winds were now hard blows and everyone had started walking from behind Jason in a height-wise order so the winds would impact less. Everyone had summoned up their coats using magic and Jason had to use double.

‘Going back is still an option for you’ Jason said sarcastically after noticing that the others were shivering.

‘We can’t! Don’t lower our morale’ James said. He knew they had come too far and deep into the Jungle that even returning would be hard. ‘Already it’s up, we only have an hour before midnight SO GO ON!’

James had suddenly started feeling heavy with all he ate earlier. ‘I didn’t even have a proper dinner’ he thought to himself. He couldn’t even see the forest beyond a short length as it was too foggy to do so. His head was heavy and concentrating was a big problem when he was also trying to keep himself awake at the same time.

THUD!

Something dropped behind James, who was just after Jason followed by Ava. He looked back to find Robert lying uncomfortable on the thick blanket of snow, unconscious.

‘I think he has fainted due to heavy snow’ Rose asked.

‘Of course he has, how could I forget that the climates near the Wizardry Empire were high. He of course couldn’t have withstood the cold! I told you to stay back’ Jason sighed angrily. ‘We need to get him back to the hospital’

‘He could have used *Vichesenta* to reach faster’ Ava suggested.

‘He still can’ Rose said.

‘Have you gone mad? He is unconscious Rose’ Jason said with increasing temper just like the weather.

‘I can take him and disappear while you guys still continue the search’ Rose said, grabbing Robert’s hand.

‘I suggest you all to go back’ Jason reminded.

‘No after we are so deep in the forest and so close to the Wizards!’ James barely spoke out, throat dried.

‘*Vichesenta!*’ Rose screamed while pulling her watch out of her pocket.

Robert and Rose both disappeared into thin air before the three resumed their expenditure to find the mysterious wizards lurking in the Jungle. Every second James felt he was almost there but everytime it disappointed him : Nothing but a weird looking animal.

It was almost midnight on Ava’s pocket watch when the Jungle had started to become clearer. The climate was warmer and the trees are far apart from each other.

Suddenly the trees were nowhere to be seen in a small patch of the Jungle where there lay a small winter camp with a bonfire nearby.

‘RUN! JAMES AND AVA RUN! IT’S A TRAP!’ Jason warned and started running the opposite direction while James and Ava followed.

James’ leg suddenly got caught in something and before he could register what it was, he was upside down and his eyes had started to sink. He really badly wanted to sleep.

A man with a shaved beard and a Wizard’s hat exited the camp followed by a shorter Wizard.

‘Gotchu’ The shorted wizard celebrated under his breath which still was audible a sizable distance later. James was barely able to distinguish between the two.

‘Thought you’d come, I did some preparations, you see’ The taller Wizard with a Wizard’s hat cheered. James couldn’t resist more, a very cheerful and promising sleep was waiting for him on the other side, he had to close his eyes.

NO I CAN’T

James thought but it was out of his cuntroll now as his eyes had started watering like mad. Soon enough he was deep in sleep, into his favorite place : dreams.

He had a strange dream that he was being hung upside down on a rope, above a bonfire by Ava and Jason. Suddenly, two Wizards step in to save him but are killed by Jason’s Krutos. The dream was so realistic that if not for the characters, James would have thought that he was actually being burnt alive by his own people. The sound of Krutos rang in his head until it wasn’t.

James’ eyes were too dry and hard to open and a sensation as if someone was foking them close was felt. He had woken up from his dreams but couldn’t

open his eyes. Trying as hard as possible, he managed to open his left eye, which was filled with dirt causing it to water and blur his vision.

James barely saw two figures standing in front of two erect pieces of wood, which hang a tied man in between. The man was talking angrily to the wizards.

‘Once the Order-’ Jason began.

‘Ahh-ha-ha, I already misguided them by manipulating a Sorcerer to look and behave like me and sent him to the opposite direction’

‘Silas! You have already done bad to get what you shouldn’t and failed’ Jason said in a forcefully calm voice. ‘Can’t you see it? The spell ain’t going to work to “Improve” your kind upon us’

‘I do know that... or do I?’ The wizard to whom Jason called Silas replied. Suddenly some white light started to erupt from the wand in his pocket. ‘Looks like you’ve got some friends over’

Silas had now left, disappearing through the branches of trees in the same direction from where they came.

James tried forcing his both eyes open using his hands but only to find out that he was too tied up like Jason. In between James and Josh, Ava was also tied on a chair with a cloth covering her mouth so she couldn’t speak.

‘Greg, you! You know how bad the thing you are working for is. Be on the right side, Greg. I will help you be here, I will save you from that MINISTRY’ Jason told the shorter and younger looking boy.

The grip on James’ eyes had now dissolved, finally letting him comfortably open his eyes.

Silas had now entered with a fainted man along his back, which apparently looked harder than done. As Silas slowly turned around to tie the man in the same direction as James and Jason, James saw who it was as earlier his face was on the other side, IT IS AIDEN!

‘Aiden! Silas, how did you get him?’ Jason snapped.

‘He was looking for us like you, or did he?’ Silas said with a sarcastic smile as he returned to Jason after tying Aiden. ‘He came here looking for you, I think’

Greg suddenly got his attention towards James, who got scared at first by his childish but deadly giggle.

‘Looks like he is awake. Silas, look- he is awake’

Silas finally took notice of James and advanced further towards him in a slow but respectful way.

‘Good Morning- no, Good Night sir’ Silas bowed to James when he was face to face with him.

This particular selection of words led to a thousand doubts in James' mind. How does Silas know him? Why is he bowing? Why is he calling me his SIR?

'Why are YOU calling HIM your SIR?' Jason asked, bewildered by Silas' words.

'He has his father's blood, Jason' Silas said. These words brought a number of reactions from James and Jason, Jason's face was lit up with a disgusted look while James' head was filled with utter surprise.

He had finally heard someone talk about his dad except for HIMSELF! He was waiting for this moment ever since he came into Mage Realm. He wanted to know more! He had to know more!

'My father?' James asked, intrigued. 'How do you know him? Tell me more!'

'Don't know about your own father, huh? The great Ryan Taylor, the best spellmaker ever seen by any Mage, great and rare talent. He is the one who made the most magical spell : Terrum' Silas' voice was filled with depth when he said these words.

'What is Terrum?' James asked while Ava tried making all her efforts to free herself.

'Terrum is the doorway between here and our paradise : Hell' Silas said proudly. 'He made that spell by accident with Aiden. He is the only Sorcerer after the first Sorcerer we worship'

'YES!' Jason said, outraged and trying to move dangerously towards Silas. 'YES! You people hunt and kill the people you worship, don't you?'

'No we don't' Silas said politely to Jason, still facing James. 'It's just that he was too stubborn and couldn't see the potential of what he had made by accident'

'What' James said with disbelief. It couldn't be that Silas killed them back on Mid Gaurd, even after worshiping his dad.

'Moodskeeper-' Jason had just begun when James interrupted.

'Why is Moodskeeper being inserted here?' James asked, feeling really confused. How did his father die if not for Silas? How did Silas kill his dad? and Why is Moodskeeper here?

'Moodskeeper is Ryan. Moodskeeper is your dad, James' Jason said with guilt washing onto his face.

James couldn't believe his own ears : The person he had been admiring and being hearing about was his father! He always knew his father!

'I don't even know why you call great Ryan the Moodskeeper?' Silas asked with surprise.

‘Wouldn't have needed to give him a second name if you wouldn't have used Discent Spell on him!’ Jason said.

‘I already told you in the court : It- was- an- accident’ Silas said calmly. ‘I was face to face with the great Ryan and only if he hadn't run away like that I wouldn't have a need to use the Discent Spell’

‘W- What is Discent Spell’ James said. A cold and sharp drop of water running down his cheek, passing his mouth and falling onto the ground. He was crying.

‘James, don't cry. We are with you’ Jason said after having a glance at James. Ava also had stopped her attempts to break free after looking at James.

‘What is Discent Spell?’ James said stubbornly, trying to hide the water on his face.

‘It is a curse. The person affected disintegrates after a certain period of attack and can't be talked about even after his death till a geometrical stavolent amount of time’ Jason started. ‘If they tried to speak of him, the person would start coughing dangerously and sometimes life threateningly. The more powerful the Spell, the shorter it is. In this case, your mother was pregnant and your father was being hunted by the Wizards for a book which had written and contained the spell Terrum. It was the Book of Clandestine.

‘They were being moved into safe houses by the Order but the night before they had to leave : they were attacked by Silas Barlowe and some other Wizards. This had been the third time it had happened but this time your parents got hit by a Discent Spell. Your father decided to do the unthinkable to save you : Your parents moved away secretly on Mid Guard for the rest of their lives.

‘On some other day, I was going for some work by the Order in the Mid Guard Government when I saw your face in front of a Mid Guard school after thirteen years and my doubt that the spell hasn't affected you was correct. I then called you over but still wasn't able to tell you about your dad till today, when the spell finally wore off’

James still was silently crying in disbelief : The people he thought were simple and neutral were the exact opposite of his memory. His mother, a chef at an indie restaurant was the wife of the great Ryan, his dad, a travel agent turned out to be a god for many people and was the best spellmaker and due to whom an entire war started.

‘I- I’ James thought of it. The sorrow of his parents dying was slowly turning to uncontrolled rage. ‘YOU- YOU KILLED THEM! YOU TOOK THEM AWAY! I WILL KILL YOU!’

He was now walking as fast and as hard as he could towards Silas, with all his might.

'KRUTOS! KRUTOS- LAVERO!' he screamed.

'Sir, we have taken the activators of you both and made them lie comfortably inside the tent. Don't worry, we will keep it beside the tomb of the son of the great Ryan' Silas said in a naturally calm voice.

'USE MAGIC! Jason, use magic' James said, anger calming down as he couldn't do anything and also thought that he was a bit of a jerk acting like that but the hatred was still in him to KILL and only KILL Silas.

'I can't' Jason sighed. 'They've used a magic blocker on me- look, this bracelet'

Suddenly something rang on Silas' hand : a wrist watch was vibrating and screaming *'ALREADY THE TIME! ALREADY THE TIME!'*. Silas unfolded his sleeve to reach his watch to stop the watch from screaming.

'Sir, I can't believe it's already the time. As per the Order from the Ministry, I'll have to kill you people before burying you here. Greg, get the girl here!' Silas said.

Greg started moving towards Ava, laughing maniacally. The attempts by Ava rose as she tried to get out of her ropes and escape.

'DON'T, SILAS! No- DON'T TOUCH THE GIRL' Jason said, trying to be free from the shackles.

'LEAVE HER ALONE' James cried out automatically. He couldn't bear so many losses just in a day : His parents and now Ava. The Wizards were taking everyone away from James but still called him "SIR"!

James tried as hard as possible and as loud and clear as possible : *'LAVERO!'*.

'No use, sir. I told you already that we have your activators and you aren't yet powerful enough to use magic without one, sir' Silas said silently as Greg loosened the ropes on Ava.

James closed his eyes and continued shouting every spell he could from his Defensary Arts class : *'Drivleilo! Krutos! Laverro!'* but none worked. For the one last time he remembered what Professor Aera used to say : 'Never let your inner calm be disrupted, you will automatically master everything'

James concentrated as hard as possible while trying to ignore the surrounding noises from Ava's muffled cries for help, to Jason begging Greg to leave Ava alone.

He closed his eyes again and concentrated on just a single spell, Laverro. He focused on how he could just make the ropes untie themselves and then he could rescue Ava. For the last time he said under his breath *'Laverro'*.

He couldn't hear anything as everything around him faded. All of the power in his body came to a single place, his brain, as he felt the grips around his hands loosen up.

He slowly opened his eyes to find out that everyone was looking at him, astonished.

'James' Jason sighed. 'You are using magic'

'James- how are you' Ava said as the cloth on her mouth was not there and she was standing right in front of Silas, hands still tied behind her back.

James fell to his knees. He was now free, he realized and ran towards Silas. He snatched the wand out of Greg's hands and pointed it towards Silas threateningly.

'Surrender yourself, or else' James threatened Silas. 'I am pretty good at Krutos!'

'So am I' Silas said in a restless voice, turning his wand towards James. 'I am sorry that you'll have to die such- *Lavero*'

James had started to float and the wand in his hand slid out. James was slowly rising up in the air. His feet were lifted and slowly but surely he was in the air followed by Silas' wand tip. He was as high as the trees around him but still didn't stop.

Slowly his heart was numb and felt as if the place where his heart is supposed to be is empty. He was so high in the sky that he could barely spot the people standing below.

His all senses stopped working as if getting ready to DIE! He was really scared and could do nothing. Shooting spells won't be possible from this height and using *Lavero* on himself was not possible.

James' heart came to a halt when he stopped rising. He knew 'I am going to die' and closed his eyes so he couldn't see his own legs get disintegrated.

He started falling, gaining momentum every second.

He soon enough was going to be in Heaven or like the Wizards want, in Hell. He waited for his legs to shatter but nothing happened for seconds. He took a glimpse of what was happening? Why wasn't he yet dead? He was at the height of the canopy of trees and immediately closed his eyes, welcoming death.

He hit down but on a soft cushion like bed instead of the hard ground. A very menacing roar was heard and gasps from the people below.

James again tried peeking through his right eye when he noticed that he was on an old griffin, flying in circles over the figures on the grounds.

'GRUBBIN' James was surprised but delighted. 'You, here? Thank GOD!'

James held tight on Grubbin's neck and soared into the air. Up and down, in circles and squares before finally finding a spot where they can land without the others noticing.

He was in front of a large tree with water flowing from it but decided to ignore it and walked stealthily through the Jungle in the direction of the others. Only if he could make it to Silas and surprise attack him, his revenge would be successful.

The happiness that would occur to him after killing Silas filled in James' head and James got even faster.

When James could barely see Ava tied up again and Jason hung while Greg looked for him in the distance, James made Grubbin rest there as he walked, bent over to his knees to avoid being seen.

'Ava- here' James hissed when he was right behind Ava. 'Don't look! I will first rescue you and then you will take on Greg while I fight Silas, OK?'

'What about Jason?' Ava hissed back without looking directly at James behind her.

'We will get him and Aiden after killing the Wizards, ok?' James said, moving a little towards Jason. 'On the count of three'

'One...'

James untied Ava ('*Lavero*') and told her to act as if still tied and then crawled towards Jason, who was talking angrily with Silas.

'Two...'

Something tickled James on his neck and when he looked back, he saw Greg standing over him with an outstretched wand and laughing maniacally. James stood up as his cover was blown and walked out of his hiding.

'Why are you laughing Greg?' Silas said calmly.

'I- I found him!' Greg stuttered, not because of fear but due to laughing like a mad.

'Nice job kid' Silas appreciated.

James walked in front of Jason with his neck covered by a wand of Greg's.

'I can't kill you now, sir, as now I will have to take you to the Minister of Wizards so he can decide for you after your attempt to escape what was coming, sir' Silas said politely.

'Can I get one last wish?' James asked, fighting against Greg, who was holding him by his collar as if James was trying to escape.

'That surely is what I can do' Silas said, bowing slightly.

'I want to know where the Book of Clandestine is kept?' James said, trying to sound falsely polite.

‘As you wish, sir. It is in the tent, waiting to help our kind’ Silas replied. ‘Is your last wish fulfilled?’

‘I do think so but before using Krutos on me’ James eyed Ava from the corner of his eyes. ‘THREE!’

Ava leapt up scurrily and tackled Greg before taking hostage of his wand. James was lucky as Silas was caught off guard. He hurried towards Silas’ wand and seized it before running towards the tent.

He ran into the tent and saw a red book with ancient runes on it with ‘Ryan A. Taylor’ written on the bottom of it. James grabbed the book before getting his own wand after throwing the other and running out of there into the Jungle.

‘I have got the book and you as HOSTAGES’ James announced as he walked out to Ava holding the wand tight in her hands pointing towards the Wizarding pair.

James walked forward with his wand outstretched in one hand while holding the Book of Clandestine from the other.

‘YES!’ Jason celebrated early. ‘And you don’t need a wand to use magic now, James’

James realized the same and kept his wand safely in his pockets.

‘I am the one dominant now!’ a not so familiar rage and satisfaction took over James as he opened the pages of the Book of Clandestine. ‘Now, you will be the same as my parents. Just the difference is, they went to HEAVEN and I think you want to go to HELL?’

‘Yeah!’ Silas said, on his knees. ‘Just do it for every Wizard. Let them have the taste of that wonderful power too!’

‘James! Don’t use the book, it will corrupt you!’ Jason cried helplessly, still hanging.

‘No it will not. At Least until I complete my revenge!’ James matched the same level of urgency and care to make fun of Jason. ‘Don’t worry about me, but about him’

James started to flip through every page of the book to find the most painful Spell to use on Silas.

‘Don’t, please! It can corrupt you if you use it for too long’ Jason said restlessly.

‘How- How do you know?’ Silas asked.

‘I remember Ryan putting all sorts of curses on it when he was outraged when you attacked his BABY!’ Jason said to Silas.

GLUBO! James found the perfect curse in the book with many deadly properties :

Glubo

Origin : Depths of Hell (Page number 742)

Incantation : Glushious

Category : Torture and Killing

Use : It puts the person being affected into extreme pain and wrath with some signs of physical damage. Overuse can be proven deadly. Post effects include permanent memory loss and mortality depreciation.

Rating by Experiment : Experimented on a rat. Deadly and malicious.

It was the perfect curse James needed to use on Silas. It could do him serious torture, PERFECT!

James pointed the fingers of his right hand as demonstrated in the book towards Silas and yelled '*GLUSHIOUS*'.

Gasps were let out when Silas screamed in agony but the glare on his face made it clear. He was really satisfied with the effect and was deeply immersed in the pain.

'WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?' James felt betrayed.

'It's exactly what I thought it would be. Powerful and extreme. You are using it without the enhancements of Hell, imagine it when we open Hell and then PAY YOU BACK!' Silas said, screaming and laughing at the same time while the spell continued.

'*GLUSHIOUS! GLUSHIOUS!*' James shouted in an attempt to raise the effect of the curse. Silas started to scream more and more intensely as the smile on his face disappeared into a painful silence when the curse finally wore off from him.

'No, James, no!' Jason tried explaining. 'What is the difference between you and Silas if you both try to do evil to each other? Stop it! STOP IT!'

The words had zero effect on James as he wanted to have more, MORE pain in Silas and reopened the book to find the deadliest curse his father found in his expenditures.

After scrolling through the pages for a while, James reached the 'Extremely Dangerous' section of the book, where he found a spell that he had already heard somewhere called Trepentius :

Trepentius

Origin : Dark and unknown creatures of Hell (Page number 1326)

Incantation : Trepentius

Category : Wrath Murder or Mass Murder

Use : It is a slow torture spell which also kills the person being affected. It is believed that the time is reduced when the person trying to use the spell really wants the other to die and vice versa. The spell was widely used for the purpose of killing an escaped person from jail, just after some time of the Avengence.

Rating by Experiment : Not experimented and has no future plans to. Deadly and really painful.

James knew what he had to do. A wide smile appeared on his face as he pulled his wand out for maximum effect.

‘James, I know what you are about to do’ Jason said warningly. ‘Don’t do it. Silas got arrested for the same one year ago. You will be jailed by the Order. Don’t do it! DON’T DO IT! I SAID DON’T DO IT!’

James was ready to face the consequences. He raised his wands and aimed it at Silas, who was begging for mercy, and silently whispered ‘Trepentius!’ under his breath.

Nothing happened for a few moments before a purple crack appeared in the air just behind Silas.

‘AAAA...!’ Silas screamed as loud as never heard before and the birds flew off the branches. Slowly some fragments would break out of Silas and melt into the crack opening as he screamed so bad and loud.

Silas broke out and tears were all over him as he managed to scream every curse word at James. James couldn’t have been happier. He was happy to see the man who killed his parents scream! He was happy to finally know that his revenge was successful.

‘This one is for killing my Father! and my Mother! This one for you WIZARDS!’ James himself lost the cuntroll.

Ava then left her position and threw the wand in the direction of the crack, which dissolved in the same, and sprinted towards James before thrashing him down on the ground and getting the book away from him.

The book flew away from James as he fell back on his knees.

A really- REALLY bad feeling emerged from every body part of James’ body. James was feeling so small, so bad and mean that he wasn’t even able to look into the eyes of others as Silas screamed.

Tears were all over James. ‘What have I done? How could I do this? This is not me! THIS IS NOT ME!’ James thought to himself.

James closed his eyes and lay on his hind legs, crying. The screams faded out and someone walked over to him.

‘James, don’t worry, it wasn’t your fault’ Jason said reassuringly, standing beside James and patting him on his back. ‘Ryan made it so whoever uses the book would feel so and so bad after being back to their senses. Don’t cry, it wasn’t in your own hands’

Somebody else also walked up to James followed by another person. James opened his eyes dimly to see Jason sitting beside him with Aiden behind followed by Ava.

‘Everything is over’ Jason said.

‘It all happened because of ME! We lost the only Wizard we could have used for interrogation’ James said, the guilt increasing.

‘No! It’s because of you that the Wizards don’t have the book with them now’ Aiden said, helping James get up.

‘Professor, I think you are wrong!’ Ava called up.

Aiden walked away, followed by Jason and then James.

‘We left Greg open and now the book is gone’ Ava said. ‘I- I think that Greg person took it’

‘He couldn’t have run too far away yet!’ Aiden thought to himself.

‘I think I have to leave! I think we can still get him in time if I alert the Order!’ Jason said, turning to James. ‘I have to go now. You must get back with Aiden, I will meet you later. *Vishesenta!*’

Jason disappeared.

‘Good news for you, James’ Aiden said happily. ‘The will school will reopen soon as the Wizards were finally caught’

‘I don’t want to go back to school’

‘What?’ Aiden asked, surprised.

‘Are you fine?’ Ava said, checking his temperature as she placed her palm back and forth on James’ head.

‘Yes’ James said, convinced. ‘I don’t want to stay here. I will go back to the place where I belong, where my parents found peace, back on Mid Gaurd, in my old house’

‘Why?’ Ava said, worried. ‘You’re joking, right? What about us? You can’t just go like that!’

‘Ava’ Aiden tried to calm Ava down. ‘It’s his choice. Let him go’

‘Professor, but what about our friendship?’

‘You can come and meet me on weekends and on holidays. School does allow us to take leaves, don’t they?’ James said.

A week passed, James lived with Aiden and Robert. The look on Robert’s face was remarkable when James told about his departure this Wednesday.

‘What?’ Robert exclaimed, surprised. ‘You can’t leave! The only person who truly expects me in the place I belong is YOU! I won’t let you go’

‘You can come with Ava to visit me once a month on weekends’ James said. ‘School will allow it and I am not going there to never return, I will myself visit you guys sometimes’

Jason made no appearances since his departure to find Greg on that Wednesday until the very day of James’ departure.

The Wednesday was hotter than usual and there was no sign on snow.

‘We will have to leave right now to Jerkin City or else you might miss today’s bus’ Aiden said, shaking James awake.

‘Why are we going to Jerkin City? Can’t we just get a bus from here?’ James said, getting up.

‘No, Jerkin City is the transport centre of Sorcery empire’ Aiden said, folding James’ blankets using magic. ‘The train doesn’t leave you out of Mage Realm, so get ready fast as we don’t have any other option than the Ilontra bus’

James got ready and found Robert already up, who was coming with them to the bus station. James, Aiden and Robert walked till the end of the artificial forest and till the bus station where Ava and Rose were waiting for them.

They greeted Ava and Rose before boarding a Civil train to Jerkin City. James had already sat in this time travel bus once when he was going to the fair a year ago.

James saw the Jerkin city as ever and also spotted the Cafe he stayed in for a month before leaving for his school. Memories were freshening up when they reached the Mulling Burrow station where Jason was already waiting for them.

‘James, remember when I first bought you here?’ Jason greeted on the sight of the five.

‘Yes’ James remembered the happy memories they were once.

‘THE ILONTRA BUS WILL ARRIVE IN EXACTLY THREE MINUTES!’ a nearby speaker shouted.

Soon something zapped right beside James and if not for the push by Jason, James would have been hit by the orange bus.

‘We would miss you, James’ Robert said.

‘You were a great student’ Aiden continued to praise James. James didn’t want to go back but everything he had was back on Mid Guard, he couldn’t stay here, he had made his mind up.

‘I would miss you too James’ Jason said, playing with Oscar. ‘And him too- When I first bought you here, I knew you had potential and you proved me right. I’m proud of you’

‘I- I would really miss you, J- James!’ Ava said, sobbing. Ava came a bit closer to James, a little bit more before she hugged without saying anything and backed off.

James climbed the bus and zapped away with Oscar. The bus passed through the black cracking of glass before they were back on Earth with no flying things or chipmunks everywhere to annoy one.

James climbed off the bus and headed straight for his house, eyes blurry due to his tears. He reached the door and silently used magic to open the door when nobody was around.

Everything from his father’s office, lit with dusted maps to his mother’s rusted kitchen was all the same except for James, the truth and the reality of his parents on the night of his seventh birthday flashed in front of him.

James wiped clean his eyes and began to clean the room... He has no idea of what more great things which are about to come to him as a surprise in the near future would be.

**The End,
For Now.**

James returned but the war didn't.
Sorcerer's would return to take revenge in :

Atharva V. Patil

Terrum

Part Two :

Aiden Warlock

Humble Begining